

Israelis besiege UNIFIL troops in 'security zone'

IBL AL SAQI, Lebanon (R) — Israel Wednesday blockaded U.N. troops in its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said.

A U.N. source described the blockade as "serious and could lead to a crisis."

"Israel shut all roads in the face of UNIFIL troops. They cannot move," spokesman Timor Goksel of the UNIFIL (U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon) said.

The blockade was in apparent retaliation for an attempt by Norwegian U.N. troops Tuesday to bar Israeli forces from entering the village of Ibl Al Saqi nine kilometres from the Israeli border.

The 600-man Norwegian peacekeeping battalion has its headquarters in the village, which lies in the 15-kilometre wide "security zone" set up by Israel in 1985.

Goksel said Israeli troops used a tank to smash a roadblock and force their way into Ibl Al Saqi Tuesday in breach of an understanding that they would not enter the village.

An Israeli officer told Reuters: "Ibl Al Saqi and other areas controlled by the Norwegian battalion are being used as a staging ground for armed attacks

against the security zone. This has been annoying to us."

"The obstacles erected by UNIFIL in South Lebanon are blocking our movement. This will force us to change our policy in dealing with them," he said.

Norway accused Israel Wednesday of showing lack of respect for the United Nations. "The (village) episode shows a regrettable lack of respect for the U.N. on Israel's part," Defence Minister Johan Joergens Holst told the Norwegian news agency.

Israelis and Norwegians have come into conflict several times before in Lebanon but the U.N. source said the latest incidents were the most serious.

"What happened is a big threat to UNIFIL and the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon. It might lead to a lot of problems that we don't like. This doesn't help maintain peace in the area," he said.

An Israeli communiqué said Tuesday the Northern Army commander emphasised "He will not agree to any disruption in the activity of the Israeli army in Lebanon and the army will move freely in the whole security zone."

Israeli military sources linked the latest incident to remarks made last night by the Norwegian commander, J.E. Karslen.



Afghan soldiers man artillery positions around Kabul

Afghan rebels claim capture of key garrison

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels besieging the eastern city of Jalalabad have captured the key garrison of Samarkhel nearby and fierce fighting is continuing around the airport, rebel sources in Pakistan said Wednesday.

Fifteen Mujahideen guerrillas were killed and 40 wounded in the fighting. A spokesman for Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), a rebel news agency, said hundreds of government troops were captured but he had no figures for

killed and injured.

Samarkhel, some 20 kilometres south-east of the city and near the main road towards Pakistan, was captured Tuesday night, the sources said.

"It is important in that it was considered to be a tough nut to crack," Western Afghan-watchers commented.

The AIP spokesman said the rebels had captured at least five tanks and turned them against

government forces around Jalalabad airport Wednesday morning. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting was continuing. The rebels had also rocketed the city, which has a population of around one million people.

Independent confirmation of the rebel reports was not immediately available. But a government official in Kabul said Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, was under heavy attack

though its triple defence lines were still intact.

A rebel rocket hit a plane about to take off from the airport Tuesday night and an Afghan government official said two civilian passengers were killed.

The rebels are keen to capture at least one major city quickly to give credibility to the interim government they set up in Pakistan last month, Western diplomats say.

PLO sees Soviet role

Continued from page 1

any proposals for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations outside the context of an international conference.

"The U.S. supports an international conference, but we do not know how our rejection of bilateral talks prior to such a conference will affect PLO-U.S. talks," he said. "Of course, direct negotiations will take place between all the parties at the international conference," he conceded.

Similarly, Abbas rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's suggestion that Jordan and Egypt choose Palestinian representatives acceptable to the Israelis and that elections be held in the occupied territories.

"Negotiations must take place with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and the representatives chosen by the Palestinian people, not any representative chosen by the Arab or non-Arab parties," Abbas said.

He said Shamir's proposal for elections "is not aimed at solving the Palestinian problem, but at ending the intifada."

"We have tried elections (under occupation) before and we want to ask the Israelis: Where are those who were elected then?"

"Killed, wounded, fired from their jobs or expelled," he answered himself.

"If the Israelis want to discuss representation, the Palestine National Council represents Palestinians inside and outside (the land of Palestine); but if they want to discuss the intifada, we understand their objectives," he said.

Replying to a question on remarks attributed to Arafat that the PLO would be ready to accept a state without armed forces, Abbas said: "We agree on a state free of arms in an area free of arms."

Abbas vehemently opposes the intifada or armed resistance operations being equated with "terrorism."

"We condemn terrorism, but we do not say that armed struggle and the intifada are part of terrorism," he said. "It is our right to fight against the Israeli army which kills our people, children and women."

He refused to comment on U.S. Secretary of State Howard Baker's statement Tuesday that Palestinian attacks on Israel from Lebanon could not be labelled "terrorist acts." Abbas said he preferred to wait until he received the full text of Baker's remarks.

Asked about Arafat's statement that he was willing to visit Israel if there was an Arab consensus, Abbas said: "Arafat did not say that he would visit Israel, if the Arab countries agree, but that everything can happen within the context of Arab agreement. Negotiations with Israelis at an international conference is an Arab agreement."

At the same time, he said, the ongoing dialogue between some Israeli and Palestinian personalities "has our approval. We organise the seminars between Israelis and Palestinians. If they did not have our approval, they (seminars) would not take place."

Abbas said despite the "inflexible" positions adopted by Israeli government officials, particularly members of the Likud bloc, the PLO would not change its "moderate line" for three reasons.

"One, our change in politics was strategic, not tactical; two, the intifada will continue, and finally we understand the dynamics in the Israeli and American societies, and believe that these dynamics will force the two governments to change their positions," he said, adding that Israel and the U.S. must fall in line with international legitimacy.

The PLO favours confederal relations with Jordan, Abbas said. "The confederation between the two independent countries is part of future plans," he said.

Abbas added that any discussion on the confederation concept, "is still ahead of its time."

Rebels may let Sudan's hungry be fed

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Rebels fighting troops in Sudan's ravaged southern region may hold fire for a month to allow food to get to up to one million people needing help, according to a senior United Nations official.

U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Director James Grant told a news conference Tuesday there was hope the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) might accept a one-month ceasefire in April before rains start in May.

"There have been some indications that something of this nature may be acceptable to them at this stage," Grant said, without giving details. "We are in some consultation with them."

Sudan's Information Minister Beshir Omar told the conference the Khartoum government would have no objection to a ceasefire.

"With luck, it would not be just a month of tranquillity, but an everlasting tranquillity," he said.

The SPLA has often ambushed trains, river barges

and truck convoys travelling to the south and has threatened to shoot down aircraft flying to the south without its permission.

Grant said up to 100,000 tonnes of food and medicines needed to be pre-positioned in famine-hit areas before the May-October rain seasons flooded roads and airstrips.

One million people were thought to need assistance this year and more than 100,000 of them would face the risk of starving to death if food did not reach them, Grant said.

He said 250,000 died of hunger last year in Sudan. "Last year's tragedy came in part because we were not aware at that time of the immensity of the problem," Grant said, adding it would be a crime to allow another tragedy this year.

James Ingram, director of the U.N. World Food Programme, told the conference the Rome-based organisation was due to start an airlift of 3,000 tonnes of food to the southern town of Juba Wednesday. The

operation would take six to seven weeks.

Ingram and Grant are in Khartoum to take part in a two-day U.N.-sponsored conference on aid to Sudan which opened Wednesday during a political crisis between army chiefs pressing for reform and Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government.

The army chiefs have told Mahdi, in Libya on a one-day surprise visit, that he should either spend more money on defence or seek a peaceful end to the fighting against the SPLA.

Informed sources close to the conference, told the AP donor states, especially the United States, would be putting a lot of pressure on the government of Sudan to enter peace talks with the rebels.

Already Monday, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman in Washington called on Mahdi's government to talk peace.

Information Minister Beshir Omar assured the press conference that the government will

cooperate fully.

Asked how the present political crisis in Sudan affected the conference, Grant said: "The state of transition obviously makes the conference more difficult... the rain which will bring death to more than 100,000 will not stop."

The rebels have used food as a weapon in the six-year-old war in the south. Western relief officials estimate that in 1988 alone, around 560,000 southerners died of starvation or while fleeing the war. The rainy season starts in May until the end of September. It turns the roads into swamps and makes airstrips unusable.

Referring to previous international efforts to bring relief to the south, Grant said they were "far too short, to carry people through, once the rains start in the spring."

The U.N. coordinated operations want to use this month of tranquillity to transport and distribute the food and medication in hundreds of locations by air, train, trucks and Nile barges.

U.S. assures PLO of continued dialogue

TUNIS (Agencies) — The United States has assured the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that their formal talks will resume soon despite U.S. criticism of its operations in South Lebanon, PLO officials said Wednesday.

A European foreign minister who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Vienna Monday later passed on the assurances to a PLO delegation there, the officials told Reuters.

"The message was that the dialogue with the PLO will continue, that this is Washington's long-term policy, and there was not a single word about the guerrilla operations," a senior PLO official said.

The PLO and the United States have held only one formal round of talks since Washington lifted a 13-year ban on contacts in December.

PLO officials had begun to say Washington was using the dialogue either to curb PLO military activities or to give Israel more time to find alternative Palestinian leaders.

At several informal meetings in Tunis, U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau has warned PLO representative Hakam Balawi that PLO attempts to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon were a threat to the dialogue.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and colleagues have told the Americans that the guerrilla op-

erations were a legitimate response to Israel's occupation of South Lebanon and would not be halted for the sake of the talks.

The PLO officials said that by refusing to submit to U.S. pressure they had thwarted Israeli attempts to persuade Washington to break off the talks because of the raids.

"We knew that in the end the Americans would have to come back. They've now realised we were wise to their game and their reply is that talks will resume," one official said.

A senior U.S. official travelling with Baker out of Vienna Tuesday confirmed the dialogue with the PLO would continue despite the guerrilla operations.

He indicated the Bush administration was not convinced the PLO raids had crossed the line into "terrorism," which Arafat renounced last December to make the dialogue possible.

Arafat said Wednesday the uprising in the occupied territories was close to success and Palestinians there must create new institutions to replace those of the Israeli occupation forces.

"The countdown has begun. The occupation's time has passed never to return. The hour of freedom has sounded," he said in an address to the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the intifada went into its 16th month.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi minister sees no summit yet

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said in remarks published Tuesday that efforts to convene a full Arab summit had yet to bear fruit. The Qatari News Agency, quoting an interview in the Saudi weekly Al Yamamah, reported that Prince Saud said the kingdom would call a summit when the "situation permits." He said: "The ingredients for convening an Arab summit in Riyadh are not yet available. Saudi Arabia has said it would call for the first ordinary Arab summit in seven years when the atmosphere is right. "King Fahd is eager to convene a summit as soon as possible because the issues to be discussed are very important," Prince Saud added.

U.S. visa granted to Hussein

WASHINGTON (R) — Faisal Al Hussein, a West Bank Palestinian recently released from an Israeli prison, has been granted a visa to attend a New York conference on the Middle East, the State Department said Tuesday. "A visa has been authorised for Mr. Hussein," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman. But Redman said he did not know when a decision would be made on requests for visas by two members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "It's being worked on, but I don't want to set a deadline," he told reporters. The conference, sponsored by Columbia University and four Arab and Jewish organisations, is scheduled at a time many analysts see as more promising in terms of Middle East peace.

Iraqi minister fired

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein Tuesday fired his agriculture and irrigation minister for incompetence, the state-run television said. The television said the minister, Karim Hassan Ridha, was dismissed under a presidential decree issued after a cabinet meeting earlier in the day. It said the cabinet held a wide-ranging discussion of poultry-raising and its development in Iraq, but did not link Ridha's dismissal with that issue. The television did not say whether a new minister was immediately appointed to replace Ridha, who served as governor of the city of Mosul before joining the cabinet last year.

Egyptian, Algerian leaders exchange invitations

ALGIERS (R) — Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Chadli Benjedid of Algeria have invited each other on state visits, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Meguid said Tuesday. He gave no possible dates for the visits in his remarks at a news conference at the end of a three-day visit. He said his talks with Benjedid and Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieb covered the Palestinian question and the Middle East, including prospects for an international peace conference. Other topics included the formation last month of the four-nation Arab Cooperation Council, of which Egypt is a member, and the Arab Maghreb Union which unites Algeria with four other North African states.

Shamir orders Weizman not to meet Dubinin

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday ordered an Israeli cabinet minister who favours talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to cancel his plans to meet the Soviet ambassador in Washington. Israeli officials said. Science Minister Ezer Weizman, who like Moscow advocates Israeli talks with the PLO, abided by Shamir's order. The invitation to meet in Washington Wednesday came from Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin. "When the prime minister heard that Dubinin asked for a meeting with Weizman, he called him and told him it's not proper. If the Soviets want to talk to us, they know there are proper channels," Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner said. "We don't have diplomatic relations yet," Pazner said. Israel television said Weizman, as science minister, might subsequently have been invited to a Moscow science academy. But ministry director-general Aryeh Shumer said Weizman's well-known stance on the PLO was also a likely consideration.

Shamir aide denies insinuation of Nazi link

TEL AVIV (R) — The director of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office Wednesday denied an indirect newspaper accusation that the premier was involved with a group that tried to forge an alliance with the Nazis during World War II. The allegations against Shamir were published Tuesday in an editorial that rejected criticism waged by the premier of the Israeli peace movement "Peace Now." Shamir charged a day earlier that the movement was sabotaging Israeli interests by holding conciliatory meetings with Palestinians in the occupied territories. He reportedly added that he would not send secret agents to monitor the group. "That might be reassuring but for the disturbing memory, doubtless shared by Shamir himself, of a certain dissident underground group in this country back in 1941 which with the 'final solution' already underway in all but name, sought out German cooperation in the setting up here of a Jewish state 'on a national and totalitarian basis,'" said the editorial in the English-language Jerusalem Post.

Tunisian parliament ratifies treaty

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian parliament ratified Tuesday the treaty of union signed in Marrakesh last month by the leaders of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. The treaty sets up the Arab Maghreb Union, a common market similar to the European Community on the other side of the Mediterranean. Morocco and Mauritania have already ratified the treaty, while in Algeria the foreign affairs committee of the National Popular Assembly (parliament) was to report on it to the full house Wednesday. The Libyan equivalent of parliament, the General People's Congress, is expected to ratify the treaty during its current session. None of the countries have published the text of the treaty.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
16:15	Local programme
17:30	Programme on Jordan
18:00	News for the Day
18:20	Local programme
18:50	"Give me a break"
19:15	Health programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local series
21:30	Programme on Islamic art
22:30	Arabic film
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Film (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Baby Sitter
18:30	A variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	La Vie En Rose
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Bill Cosby Show
21:10	Thirty Something
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:33	Fair
05:50	(Sunrise) Dula
11:46	Dhuhr
15:07	'Asr
17:43	Maghreb
18:59	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swedish
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Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624580
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661757
Terrassano Church	Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 623541
Armenian Church	Tel. 625363
Armenian Catholic Church	Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church	Tel. 775251
St. Ephraim Church	Tel. 771751
Austrian International Church	Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church	Tel. 811295
Rabbinic Congregation	Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Tel. 818017, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The area will be affected by a relatively cold air mass. Therefore clouds increase gradually and there will be scattered rain especially in the northern and central regions. Drop in temperature is expected. Wind will be southeasterly moderate.

In Amman	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	5 / 12
Agaba	11 / 22
Deserts	4 / 15
Jordan Valley	9 / 25

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Muntir Qaish	898101
Dr. Adel Amman	812144
Dr. Awad Hawandeh	777665
Dr. Yousef Rashed	1-1
Firas pharmacy	661912
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636731
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637601

IRBID:

Dr. Ziyad Al A'araj	1-1
Dr. Yalpa Al Tarifi	1-1
Khalidh pharmacy	985417

ZARQA:

Dr. Yalpa Al Tarifi	1-1
Khalidh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire brigade	62309093
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Agaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

Traffic Police	656390/91
Public Security Department	656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	608000
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	12
Overseas Calls	17
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radios Jordan	774111
Water Authority	848101
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	645281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	645412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Milhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine Shmeisani	664174
Shmeisani Hospital	664131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	66722/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666177/7
Al-Abli, Abdali	661646
Rabian, Al-Muhajroon	777101/3
Al-Basdar, J. Ashtaleh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	109983323
Zarqa National Hospital	10991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	109986733
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	021272275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	021347100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	03314111

Crown Prince to open liquid fertiliser plant

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Al Ra'i Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open a liquid fertiliser plant at the port city of Aqaba on March 16 in a ceremony to be attended by a number of ministers and directors of agricultural, industrial and commercial businesses in the country.

The plant, the first of its kind in the Middle East region, has been established by the Jordanian-Kuwaiti Food and Agricultural Company.

Prince Hassan is expected to deliver a speech on the occasion which is part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Arab Renaissance Day which is celebrated normally on March 22.

The company's manager, General Hami Al Huneidi, said that Prince Hassan's interest in the plant reflects his continued support for the industrial sector in Jordan, and his endeavour to help the country attract foreign investors in the Kingdom.

The company's board chairman, Sheikh Ibrahim Du'eij will be among the dignitaries attending the inauguration ceremony.

Also Thursday, Prince Hassan is expected to inaugurate a plant in Aqaba for cleaning and packing rice, which was established by a local company in Amman in cooperation with an Iraqi firm.

Seminar to discuss Ramtha development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar to discuss the development process in the Ramtha district will be held Sunday in Ramtha City under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and the district governor of Ramtha will be among the speakers at the meeting which will discuss social, agricultural, local council, industrial, cultural, health, educational and other areas.

The Ministry of Supply and the

local development councils in the region have prepared working papers on the subjects to be reviewed by the participants.

According to Al Ra'i daily, the development of 225 dunums of land in the course of implementing agricultural projects in the district, will be among the main topics to be reviewed.

Another paper, it said, deals with better utilisation of the wastewater treatment plants in Ramtha and Irbid to irrigate lands for the production of animal feed.

Talhouni receives Soviet science academy delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the agricultural sciences academy in Moscow met here Wednesday with Senator Bahjat Talhouni, the president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, and discussed Jordanian-Soviet relations.

They discussed cooperation in agricultural fields and Jordan's endeavours to green the country

by the year 2000.

Talhouni said that Jordan was willing to cooperate with the Moscow academy to benefit from the Soviet agricultural experience and hopes that the academy will open the way for Jordanian students to acquire higher education and training in agricultural fields.

Haj Hassan urges support for transport organisations

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Transport Khaled Al Haj Hassan has urged Arab states to back Arab League organisations concerned with transport to boost their activities.

The minister, in an address to the Arab League's Transport Council, which opened a meeting

here Wednesday, underlined the importance of land and maritime transport for the Arab World's development and inter-Arab trade.

He expressed hope that the creation of Arab economic groupings would boost economic cooperation among Arab states.

Meeting discusses means to carry out ACC decisions

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Wednesday to discuss means of carrying out decisions that would be taken by the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which was proclaimed in Baghdad on Feb. 16.

The meeting, which was chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf, was attended by secretaries general of the ministries of Supply, Agriculture, and Finance as well as the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the directors of Customs, the Income Tax and the Budget departments.

The meeting discussed matters to be taken up by development councils, which will start a round

of meetings in the second half of March, as well as means of boosting exports of national products and encouraging local investment.

Meanwhile, in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal made a statement in which he expressed hope that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will contribute to the Arab nation's development in all fields.

In the statement, published by the Saudi weekly Al Yamamah, the prince said the ACC was bound to help boost cooperation among Arab countries and lead the way to pan-Arab unity.

In Kuwait, Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah was quoted as saying that the ACC will boost the strength of the Arab World in all fields.

Princess Basma calls for strengthening Arab women's role in society

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Wednesday the establishment of the Arab Women's Scientific Council (AWSC) in October 1988 was designed to entrench general Arab awareness of the need to strengthen Arab women's role in the progress of the Arab society, and to develop this role scientifically, culturally, economically and socially.

Delivering a lecture at the Amman Business and Professional Woman Club (ABPWC) on the occasion of the International Women's Day, Princess Basma said that the AWSC intends to confirm that intellectual women leaders can contribute to solving the nation's various issues. "They can also create constructive dialogue between Arab thinkers and decision-makers."

"The AWSC desires to attain goals through the execution of scientific research and studies related to women," Princess Basma added.

Princess Basma said that the AWSC gives priority in its studies, programmes, and projects to the needy Arab women living in the badia and the countryside.

The AWSC, Princess Basma continued, "carries out its various projects in cooperation with the concerned scientific research centres, universities, development funds, women's professional unions, as well as concerned Arab, regional, and international organisations."

Concluding, Princess Basma hoped that the AWSC would carry out its duties and responsibilities so as to serve the development issues in the Arab World and reinforce Arab women's role in developing their society.

Princess Basma also lauded the ABPWC and other unions' role in promoting women's contribution to development efforts.

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued granting British Council Representative in Jordan David Latta, the Independence Medal of the Third Order. (Petra)

ART EXHIBITION: Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ibo Zaid and Princess Majda Raad Wednesday opened an art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. The exhibition, which lasts until March 31, includes 72 pieces of art depicting nature and the environment. (Petra)

HUWWARA MAYOR APPROVED: The council of ministers endorsed the appointment of Mustafa Shatnawi to the post of mayor of Huwwara Municipality in Irbid Governorate. (Petra)

TURKISH MILITARY DELEGATION: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday received a visiting Turkish military delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the region as well as spheres of cooperation and issues of common interest. Present were the Turkish ambassador and the Turkish military attaché in Amman. (Petra)

AMIN MEETS JUNKYARDS OWNERS: Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin met in Amman Wednesday with owners of junkyards who run businesses along the Amman-Zarqa Highway and urged them to remove their stores to areas outside the boundaries of the Amman region in three months from now. The meeting was preceded by a series of discussions about the problem upon the directives of the Minister of Interior to find a solution. A special committee appointed by the minister recommended that junk stores be removed from the Amman area as soon as possible and suggested Wadi Al Qitar as a substitute site. The committee had said the Interior Ministry was determined to take drastic measures against those failing to abide by the order. (Petra)

ASFOUR, ABU HASSAN RETURN: President of the union of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Mohammad Asfour and President of Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan returned to Amman Wednesday after representing Jordan at the six-day meetings of the Arab Chamber of Commerce which were held in Washington. (Petra)

SALT BUDGET: The Salt Municipality budget for 1989 amounted to JD 848,950. (Petra)

CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE: A total of fifteen women Wednesday participated in a seven-day course held by the Balqa Civil Defence Department. The course includes lectures and practical applications in first aid, rescue operations, and fire fighting. (Petra)

NHF HONOURS CHINESE ENVOY'S WIFE: The wife of the Chinese Ambassador in Amman, Mrs. Zheng Zhen was honoured here Wednesday by Nour Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in recognition of her contributions to the foundation's programmes and activities. Mrs. Zhen is leaving the country with her husband, the ambassador, at the end of his tour of office in the Kingdom. At a reception held in her honour at the NHF headquarters, the foundation's Director General, Mrs. Inam Al Mufri, made a brief speech, paying tribute to Mrs. Zhen for her assistance especially to the National Music Conservatory and the Jerash Festival of art and culture. Mrs. Zhen later presented Mrs. Mufri with a token gift on the occasion. (Petra)

GERMAN ENVOY HONOURS CARDIOLOGIST: West German Ambassador Dr. Herwig Bartels received in his office, Wednesday Dr. Qassem Zaqa, consultant internist and cardiologist, and decorated him with the "Merit Order" in recognition of Dr. Zaqa's medical services extended to the members of the German embassy for over twenty years. (J.T.)

MAJALI RECEIVES ENVOYS: University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday discussed with Tunisian Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Labib cooperation between the university and the Tunisian higher education institutes in the scientific and cultural fields. Majali also received Swiss Ambassador in Amman Harald Bomer Wednesday and discussed a cooperation agreement between the university and the Swiss government. The agreement includes the building of a phonetic research and studies centre at the university. (Petra)

Dakhqan inspects water installations in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan Wednesday made an inspection tour of water installations and networks in Madaba district, and met officials and engineers to discuss the water situation in that district.

In a meeting with district Governor Khalil Khreisat, the minister was briefed on the Madaba region's needs of water supplies for domestic and industrial use and discussed with him solutions for present problems.

Dakhqan later met with engineer Ahmad Rujub, director of the water department here, and urged him to help find solutions for water problems.

Rujub said later in a statement that the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has opened four offices at Madaba, Naour, Jizeh and Dhiban, south and south west of Amman, to receive complaints from members of the public about problems connected with the water supply to their regions, and failures in the water

pumping operations.

Rujub said that WAJ has completed work on a new water network for Madaba and set up two water towers of 6,000 cubic metres and 400 cubic metre capacity respectively.

He said that WAJ has already laid a 86-kilometre sewerage network for Madaba city.

Tarawneh tours supply department in Amman

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh Wednesday made an inspection tour of the Supply Department in the Amman region and was briefed by its director on the process of providing food supplies to various districts in the capital.

The Ministry of Supply is tightening control over the prices of basic commodities and is making arrangements for sufficient quantities of poultry meat to reach the consumers, Tarawneh said in remarks during the visit.

He urged department officials to build bridges of mutual confidence with the merchants and storekeepers so that they can cooperate in ensuring sufficient supplies for citizens.

Tarawneh later called on a government appointed judge charged with settling disputes and

cases related to violations of Ministry of Supply regulations, and was briefed on the court's procedures.

The minister was accompanied on the two visits by the Ministry of Supply secretary general and the ministry's inspector general.

Earlier this week, Tarawneh urged the public to refrain from hoarding food supplies in large quantities because, he said, they

can be found on permanent basis in the local market.

He also said that the treasury was subsidising basic food commodities at the rate of JD 60 million during 1989 and announced that frozen poultry meat is now arriving and 2,000 tonnes more of frozen poultry meat will be arriving here early next month, just before the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

Jerash Festival to get equipment from Japan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan will donate a new set of sound equipment to the Higher National Committee of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts through its cultural grant programme.

The equipment will include a number of audio mixers, power amplifiers, diversity tuners and

loud speakers, amounting to JD 175,000. They will be used for the annual Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts and other cultural events in Jordan.

Notes to this effect will be exchanged at the Ministry of Planning on March 9, between

Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, and Japanese Ambassador in Amman Makoto Watanabe.

Japan has so far extended six cultural grants to Jordan amounting to 223 million yen (JD 952,000). These include one for the Ministry of Education in

1982, another for the University of Jordan in 1984, a third for the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped in 1986, a fourth for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan in January 1988 and a fifth for the Judo Federation of Jordan in October 1988.

University to take part in Arab Dental Day activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan's faculty of dentistry will take part in the Arab Dental Day activities which will take place Thursday.

The faculty Dean Ghazi Qub'ain said that a team from his department will be involved in several activities including visits to housing estates at Allan, in the Balqa Governorate, and Souf district, near Jerash, to provide free of charge dental services.



Ghazi Qub'ain

Training course opens on theatre in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A training course in the use of theatre in education opened at the Bint Adi Secondary School for girls here Wednesday.

The course has been organised by the Nour Al Hussein Foundation's Theatre in Education Programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

A total of 16 women teachers in the primary stage are taking part in the four month training course.

The course deals with the use of theatre skills to create a rich visual learning process in the service of specific educational objectives.

It is based on both an extension of children's play and a combination of theatricality and classroom techniques to provide an experience imaginative in its own right, with the glamour of strangers in dramatic role and costume, providing both a stimulus and a context which are not normally available to the teachers.

Nour Al Hussein Foundation initiated the programme in 1987 and has organised four training courses for Jordanian teachers since then.

A total of 53 teachers in the primary stage and teachers' supervisors took part in the courses which were held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Rizkallah's colours — intriguing, fascinating

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Watercolours are usually a gentle media, much given to landscapes and still life. In the hands of Egyptian-born artist Adli Rizkallah, however, they are used to produce rich, colourful provocative abstracts and designs that are intriguing and fascinating.

In the 43 paintings on exhibition at the Al Wasiti Art Gallery until the end of March, Rizkallah conveys two main themes. The first is a simple, literal depiction of village women in his own country. The stylised, repetitive figures form patterns as they dance with their long dresses flowing and swaying in front of palm trees or traditional domed buildings, each of which takes its own place on the pristine, white background as if it had been printed on rather than drawn. Although his works are clearly individually painted, Rizkallah extends the stencil idea by allowing different pools of colour in the women's dresses to creep tentacle-like one into another, with lines created by marks left by the water as it dries. The overall effect of women, trees and houses is that they become like hieroglyphic symbols representing the essence of Egyptian countryside culture. Simple, lively and above all joyful, these paintings speak of a traditional, basic way of life that has continued unchanged throughout the millennia.

The second theme Rizkallah pursues is much more complex. In abstracts, entitled "Crystals," he tries to capture in both colour and form, moments of intense personal feeling and total inward awareness. He achieves his aim to some extent — the images having a certain sensuality and an unsettling voluptuousness. Pale, curved shapes that glow with a soft velvet-like sheen of a fallen rose petal are buoyed up by rich, deep colours — magentas, emeralds and midnight blues — that fold silk like around them. In other words, these vibrant colours gather in small concentrated patches. Looking like micro-



One of the watercolours by Adli Rizkallah on display at Al Wasiti Art Gallery

many group meetings to discuss art and literature. This led to a period in which the artist experimented with the forms of Copc art. Realising that this ultimately did not lead him in the

right direction, Rizkallah left Egypt to Paris in 1971. Some 10 years later, the artist returned home and ever since he has been trying to establish a personal museum for his own art.

ART REVIEW

cosms of life floating under a microscope, they add to the intensity of the image, giving an idea of that focusing in on small details that is often absurdly brought about by acute feelings of joy or grief. Although some are more explicit than others, Rizkallah's paintings on the whole tend to be rather personal and inaccessible. Like his depictions of country women, however, they are very attractive and stimulating works which offer something new. Their ever-changing character makes them easy to live with.

Rizkallah has been involved with many aspects of art and culture all his life. After attending the Academy of Art in Cairo in 1952, Rizkallah participated in

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bole and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.
- * An exhibition of paintings for children by Titiana Rifal and Karoline Ayoub at Haya Arts Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Rula Shuqairi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alfa Art Gallery.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Jordan National Gallery.
- * Amman International Book Exhibition which includes various scientific, literary, religious and children's books at the International Motor Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkallah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * A feature film entitled "Annie Hall" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * An Italian film entitled "Quinto Potere" at Haya Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.

THEATRE

- * A French play entitled "Gros Chagrin" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:15 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Heart to heart

THE HEART to heart talk between His Majesty King Hussein and a delegation of university students Tuesday was remarkable not only because it afforded yet another opportunity to reaffirm the invariables in Jordan's policies towards the Palestinian cause and other Arab causes and issues, but also because it emphasised the choice of the young Jordanian generation to make such commitments. It is indeed a rare phenomenon, not only in the Middle East region but elsewhere in the world, for a head of state to address very important policy guidelines to the youth. This is not the first time when King Hussein has chosen to speak directly to Jordanians young and old on matters touching on the future course of the country. In this and other similar contexts, His Majesty's style of governing stands out as unique and refreshing among contemporary ways of government.

On another equally important note, the Royal Court encounter between King Hussein and the university student delegation afforded the whole country another occasion to bear the assessment of His Majesty on current events touching the political and economic life in Jordan. In these critical times, laden with great achievements such as the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as well as with challenges and dangers posed by Israel and Iran, continuing the dialogue between the government at the highest level and the people at all levels would go a long way to increase and fortify the confidence building blocks between the governor and governed. This is in essence democracy in action which makes Jordan unique in its style of government. Jordanians of all walks of life would continue to pray that such encounters would occur on a periodic basis to assure that the momentum generated by each and every such encounter would be further strengthened.

Baker's negative message

BY FIRST keeping the American-PLO dialogue hanging by a thin thread and then making Washington's opposition to the convening of a meaningful international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflicts bluntly known, Washington is in effect dealing a crushing blow to all glimmers of hope that the U.S. government would ultimately side with the forces of peace in the Middle East. The clearly negative message regarding the much sought after international conference came in the wake of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Vienna encounter with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze Monday. Baker's sermon from Vienna on the conference idea was not the kind of message the peoples and governments in the Middle East were anxiously waiting for since the new administration assumed office in Washington. A great deal of hope and anticipation was generated when Mr. George Bush was elected president last November, to put the new administration solidly behind the peace process in the Middle East. The reservoir of goodwill for the new American president is, of course, still there to be explored and tested. President Bush was elected on a strong and verified platform of wide and proven experiences in international as well as domestic affairs. The Arab World is therefore still extending its hand to Mr. Bush with the hope that its yearning for just and durable peace on legitimate grounds can still be attained through the active and determined efforts of the U.S. The late President Dwight Eisenhower had proven in the fifties that the U.S. is capable of standing up to Israeli lawlessness and intransigence once it puts its mind to it. That brave, albeit sole, precedent set by Washington has yet to be repeated or even observed by Washington. By not standing up to current Israeli leaders, the U.S. would be not only betraying its friends in the Arab World as well as the peace elements within the Israeli society but also its own ideals and principles.

Accordingly, the Arab World still clings to the hope that whatever emanated from Washington so far is an aberration from established American norms. Thus the Arabs expect that President George Bush would speedily rectify past and existing errors in his government's policies towards the issues of war and peace in the Middle East.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Wednesday discussed King Hussein's address to a group of Jordanian university students to whom he outlined the situation in the Middle East, Jordan's efforts to help the Palestinian people regain their homeland and Jordanian domestic issues. The paper said that the King painted to the students a clear picture about the Jordanian position on the domestic and external fronts, and urged them to shoulder their responsibilities towards their homeland and countrymen. The King spoke in detail about Jordan's continued support for Iraq to enable it to defend the Arab soil and the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council which is designed to help pave the way for pan-Arab unity, the paper noted. Jordan, as the King said, has been acting in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which call for unity among Arabs for their freedom. For this sake the paper added, the King has been active in his drive to end differences among Arab states and rally their rank behind the Palestinians, who are trying to regain their rights.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that a great many people in Jordan are unjustifiably hoarding amounts of food supplies although the government has made all basic commodities available in sufficient quantities and pledged to maintain the present prices. Salah Abdul Samad questions the wisdom behind storing rice, sugar and other staples, and reports that some elements have been putting about false rumours about the government's intention to end the subsidy. Thus fuelling the rush to buy tonnes of commodities.

Rushdie death threat stirs backlash in France

By James M. Markham

PARIS — Television magnifies reality, and the image on French television screens a week ago was shocking. In the heart of Paris, at the Place de la Republique, some 1,500 Muslims, many of them Pakistanis, screamed into television cameras for the death of Salman Rushdie. With close-up camera work, the smallest crowd suddenly seemed to represent a fanatic Islamic fifth column that had surfaced in France just as it is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its republican, anticlerical revolution. The footage was shown again and again for several days.

Even at the best of times, the relations between native Western Europeans and the roughly six million Muslims who live in their midst are difficult. At the bottom of the economic order, Muslim immigrants frequently suffer from prejudice and discrimination, and many cling to their faith as a talisman of a separate identity. But Muslim groups' vilification of Rushdie, the author of

"The Satanic Verses," has widened the gulf of mistrust, creating new tensions and threatening to set back a fragile, halting process of integrating Muslims more fully into European society.

While some Muslims in Europe criticised Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for condemning Rushdie to death, book burnings and other protests antagonised Europeans. At the same time, many Muslims who did not take violently to the streets became incensed, feeling they had been typecast by television and the press. "Even my most secular Muslim students feel attacked by the way Islam has been represented," said Bruno Etienne, a French academic authority on Islam. "It would have been much easier to show the many French Muslims who favour the separation of church and state."

The Rushdie affair was a boon for far-right political parties that have capitalised on popular perceptions that immigrants — most of them so-called guest workers summoned in the 1960's and 1970's — were spreading

crime in Western Europe. In France, Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic National Front is trying to make a comeback in municipal elections this month after losing all but one of its National Assembly seats last May. "Islam is a religion of intolerance," Le Pen declared in Marseilles last week.

In West Germany, the ultra-nationalist Republicans, who won a startling 7.5 per cent of the vote in West Berlin on Jan. 29, have similarly been exploiting the malaise created by third-world asylum seekers and immigrants from Eastern Europe, and the Rushdie case became ammunition for their argument that Muslims, unlike previous immigrants, cannot be integrated because of their faith. The Republicans could siphon enough votes in 1990 to cost Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition its parliamentary majority.

In the swirl of accusations and diplomatic reprisals that grew out of the Rushdie affair, some courageous Muslims living in

Europe spoke up to reprimand Ayatollah Khomeini for presuming to speak in their name. Areski Dahmani, a French citizen of Algerian descent who campaigns for the integration of Muslims in French society, defended his own "right to indifference" over Rushdie's purportedly blasphemous novel. But the cause of coexistence between Europeans and Islamic immigrants was not helped by an awareness that the first protests over "The Satanic Verses" had arisen not in Tehran but in London and in Bradford, a drab British textile city with a large population of Muslims from Kashmir.

First protests in Britain

It was in London that the first Muslim protest to the book was registered, when Ali Mughram al-Ghamdi, the Saudi head of a local mosque, wrote to Rushdie's publisher, the Penguin publishing house, on Oct. 12, complaining that "The Satanic Verses" had insulted Muslims. And it was in

Bradford, on Jan. 14, that the first ritual burnings of the book took place. Only a month later did Ayatollah Khomeini call for the novelist's murder.

Speaking in Birmingham's main mosque on Feb. 24, Douglas Hurd, the British Home Secretary, cautioned the one million Muslims living in Britain against resorting to violence to express their wrath over "The Satanic Verses." Hurd warned, too, that breaking the law could provoke a backlash against immigrants.

A London television interviewer, Peter Sissons, was reportedly assigned bodyguards after a shadowy Islamic group threatened to kill him. On camera, Sissons had asked an Iranian diplomat, "Do you understand that we don't regard it as civilised to kill people for their opinions?"

And in France, the anti-Rushdie demonstration in the Place de la Republique was magnified not only by television but by campaigning for the municipal elections. Jacques Chirac, the con-

servative Mayor of Paris, happens to be running for re-election against Pierre Joxe, the Socialist interior minister, who was responsible for permitting the demonstration. Posing as a defender of law and order, Chirac sternly demanded that any foreigners who had chanted death threats against Rushdie should be expelled from France. To prevent the right from running away with the issue, Prime Minister Michel Rocard, a Socialist, warned that any new call "to violence or murder" would meet with swift legal action.

Since a savage wave of terrorist bombings in 1986 took 13 lives and left more than 100 wounded in the French capital, Parisians have been particularly jumpy about threats of violence emanating from Iran. Last week, Veronique Sanson, a popular singer, called a news conference here to announce that she had decided to withdraw a mournful tune against religious fanaticism, from her repertoire. Anonymous callers had menaced her with death threats — The New York Times.

For many Asian governments, satellite TV is an unwelcome foreign intrusion

By Michael Richardson

SINGAPORE — Direct television broadcasting via satellite into private homes is making substantial inroads into Asia for the first time, and some governments officials say they are worried.

With the widespread production and use of inexpensive satellite dishes, the planned launching of a major telecommunications satellite next year and the rapid advance of other technology, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Asian governments to deny viewers direct access to foreign satellite broadcasts.

This is forcing governments to review how they might assert control over the new, and sometimes unwelcome, foreign information and influence.

Officials say they fear that growing availability of satellite TV programmes beamed by foreign companies will promote cultural subversion.

Direct broadcast satellite TV may contain "radical political ideas, unacceptable cultural values or fanatical religious influences," the Malaysian director-general of telecommunications, Mohammad Ali Yusoff, said in an interview.

Malaysia is a multiethnic and multiracial society, Ali said, that needs to be able to "filter out" divisive external influences.

Ali was interviewed Feb. 20 during the opening session of an international telecommunications conference in Singapore.

The Indonesian government recently refused an Australian company permission to beam its television programmes into the country via an Indonesian satellite. The Emerald Network company of Darwin said the programme would be mainly educational. But the Indonesian information minister said the programmes might contain political propaganda and harm relations between Indonesia and Australia.

Officials in Taiwan said recently that they were worried about TV programmes received from a Japanese broadcast satellite. These could be increasing Japanese influence in Taiwan, they said, and perhaps providing Taiwanese viewers with uncensored reports of life in China.

The prime minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, has questioned whether Asian countries can withstand the "massive impact" of TV programme meant for Western consumers.

"Hitherto, radio and TV have been key instruments for nation-building in developing countries," Lee said, "and not a means to capture consumer advertisers as in America."

While acknowledging that these apprehensions are genuine, Western diplomats said some East Asian governments also feared that their powers of social and political control would erode if citizens had greater freedom of choice.

Experts at the Singapore conference said technology advances were making it increasingly difficult to deny access to foreign satellite broadcasts, even in countries where governments traditionally keep control over the media.

These include China and other Communist countries in Asia, as well as a number of non-Communist ones, among them South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Asia has lagged behind North

America and Europe in using satellites to distribute TV programmes, mainly because of a shortage of high-power satellite transmitters.

In East Asia and the Western Pacific, only Japan, Indonesia and Australia operate communications satellites.

But this will change next year with the advent of a satellite designed to provide TV, telephone and data services to an area of Asia with more than two billion inhabitants.

The satellite, owned by a Hong Kong-based business consortium, is to be launched in April 1990 by a Chinese Long March-3 rocket. One of Hong Kong's largest companies and a partner in the \$200 million satellite venture, Hutchison Telecommunications Ltd., plans to use some of the satellite channels for direct broadcasting of TV programmes, mainly in Chinese.

The Hutchison managing director, Richard J. Siemens, said in Singapore recently that the entertainment, sports and news programmes would have wide appeal to Chinese throughout Asia.

They would also appeal, he said, to viewers culturally influenced by China, in countries such as Thailand, and could be dubbed in the languages of those countries.

Siemens said Hutchison was a commercial organisation with no "political aspirations or leanings."

He said it had been proved that the private sector could produce better entertainment than state-controlled media could.

Analysts said that Hutchison, in planning to beam TV to a wide area of Asia to attract advertisers, was anticipating that governments would either permit, or be unable to prevent, direct reception by privately owned receiving antennae — International Herald Tribune.

Venezuela — 'blessings' of oil wealth

By Robert Bruns

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bloody riots in Venezuela this week highlight a question that has puzzled political analysts since the oil price spirals of the 1970s: What did the billions in oil income buy for the poorer exporting countries?

The full answer is not yet clear, but a new study by a World Bank economist concludes that for some countries, including Venezuela, the wealth was wasted.

Venezuela and its fellow OPEC members were the chief beneficiaries — at least temporarily — of the oil supply disruptions of 1973 and 1979 that pushed prices from less than \$2 a barrel to nearly \$40. The immediate losers were the United States and other oil-importing nations, which suffered a prolonged economic slump.

A decade after the last oil price shock that was triggered by the 1979 Iranian revolution, economists and political scientists are still trying to determine what happened to the mountains of oil income earned by the exporters.

So, too, in a less academic way, are people in the slums of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. Riots that began there last week claimed at least 200 lives in a crisis triggered by new government austerity measures, including increases in gasoline prices and transit fares. Martial law was imposed.

A few analysts have been saying for years that the oil exporters' wealth was squandered, and that most members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries may be worse off today than before they began reaping the richest trade returns in history. But their judgments lacked a longer perspective on how the OPEC economies have performed.

Now, the World Bank's Alan Gelb, in his new book "Oil Windfalls: Blessing or Curse?" has provided a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the oil boom fallout.

His conclusion: Most of the oil exporting nations are worse off now than before the boom, making the decade of oil windfalls a massive net loss for the whole world.

The troubles for the oil exporters have been made much worse, of course, by the steep fall in oil prices since 1986, from \$30 a barrel to roughly \$15 a barrel now. During the 1970s, it was widely believed worldwide that prices would keep rising.

Gelb, a senior financial economist at the World Bank, focuses on five OPEC members: Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia, Algeria and Ecuador, plus non-OPEC member Trinidad and Tobago.

He says that of these six, only

Indonesia succeeded in using its 1970s oil wealth to strengthen its overall economy, mainly by improving its agricultural sector.

Nigeria probably fared the worst, Gelb says. By the mid-1980s, Nigerians' overall standard of living was lower than before the boom, he concludes.

As a measure of Nigeria's failures, Gelb writes that in 1972-84, the economy grew at an average annual rate of 2.5 per cent despite the largest investment boom in the nation's history. By contrast, in the six years prior to the 1973 oil price spiral, Nigerian economic growth averaged 9.2 per cent a year.

Gelb adds, however, that despite the massive waste of oil income on such failed projects as steel factories, Nigeria did spend wisely to improve primary education.

One of the chief reasons for the economic problems resulting from the oil boom in these six countries, Gelb says, was the speed at which oil wealth grew. In Indonesia, for example, oil export income soared more than fourfold at the start of the boom, from \$641 million in 1973 to \$2.64 billion the following year.

The governments, which own the national oil monopolies, felt compelled to spend the money rapidly in order to demonstrate to their publics that it was not being hoarded or extorted, Gelb says.

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He says that of these six, only

Cult of Kim Il Sung is intense in North Korea

By Cindy Li

The Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — The first glimpse into the cult of President Kim Il Sung comes as soon as visitors get off the plane at Pyongyang.

A huge portrait of the man who has led this Communist nation for four decades greets them from atop the airport terminal. That is just the beginning.

Universities, stadiums and squares are named after Kim. An impressive 20 metre bronze statue of him graces the Pyongyang city centre. The country is dotted with buildings erected to celebrate his birthday (April 15, 1912) or mark his achievements. "No one will choose not to

wear the great leader's picture because we all respect him," a tour guide named Park told a group of visitors from Hong Kong.

When the visitors asked if they could get a Kim pin as a souvenir, tour guide Yoon Mu Ho responded: "We cannot give it or sell it to you because only followers of Kim and his juche idea are entitled to wear this badge."

The juche idea is the 76-year-old Kim's guiding philosophy of political and economic self-reliance. At one model school shown to the visitors from Hong Kong, every classroom has a picture of Kim in a gold-coloured frame. In a hotel in Kaesong, 135 kilometres southeast of Pyongyang, Kim's picture is in every hotel room as well as the restaurant.

The "great leader" also is a constant companion in train and subway stations, as well as in train and subway cars.

In paintings portraying Kim receiving foreign visitors, he always stands confidently while the guests bow or approach him. None show the disfiguring lump that bulges from his neck.

The official Pyongyang Simmun (Pyongyang News) uses slightly larger and darker type for Kim's name: His speeches are printed in bold letters. State-run television regularly runs documentaries on his achievements. The capital is filled with banners and slogans wishing the "great leader" a long,

healthy life.

Kim, who has led his country since the Korean peninsula was split into a Communist north and capitalist south at the end of World War II, plans to hand power over to his eldest son, 47-year-old Kim Jong Il, in what would be the world's first Communist dynasty.

Official publications began praising the younger Kim in 1971, calling him "dear leader." The Pyongyang News also uses larger type for Kim Jong Il's name. In some places, his picture hangs beside his father's.

Even Kim Il Sung's parents and grandparents are glorified in North Korea as part of the "revolutionary family."

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EN BREF

Amnistie: 950 détenus libérés

Un total de 950 détenus ont été libérés dimanche à la suite de l'amnistie décrétée, par le Roi Hussein à l'occasion de la fondation du Conseil de coopération arabe (AAC) à Bagdad.

Journée internationale de la femme

La journée internationale de la femme, inaugurée hier par la Princesse Basma, est le point de départ d'une série de manifestations en Jordanie, mettant en valeur le rôle des femmes dans le développement du pays. Au programme notamment, un séminaire sur les dangers du tabac le 11 mars et un autre sur le travail des femmes et l'emploi le 15, à la fondation Abdul Hamid Shuman à Amman. La journée de la femme clôturait la première réunion à Amman du Conseil scientifique des femmes arabes, présidé par la Princesse Basma.

10% d'illettrés en l'an 2000

Le taux d'analphabétisme, aujourd'hui de 15% en Jordanie, devrait descendre à 10% maximum en l'an 2000, à la faveur des programmes d'alphabétisation menés à bien avec l'aide d'organisations arabes et internationales, a indiqué jeudi dernier un responsable du ministère de l'éducation. Selon lui, la gratuité des dix premières années d'école a permis d'atteindre le taux actuel d'alphabétisation auprès des adultes n'ayant pas pu suivre une scolarité normale dans leur jeunesse, soit 22% des Jordaniens âgés de plus de 16 ans. Selon l'UNESCO, le taux d'analphabétisme en moyenne mondiale pour les individus de plus de 15 ans est de 20,5% chez les hommes et de 35% chez les femmes. Dans le monde arabe, ces taux passent respectivement à 50% et 70%. Le taux d'illettrisme jordanien compte parmi les plus bas du monde arabe.

Roger-Patrice Pelat est mort



L'industriel Roger-Patrice Pelat, ami proche du président François Mitterrand, est décédé mardi des suites d'une crise cardiaque à l'hôpital américain de Neuilly, près de Paris. Il était âgé de 70 ans. M. Pelat avait fait récemment parler de lui lors du scandale boursier Pêchev, qui avait ébranlé le président. M. Pelat avait été inculpé de «délit d'initié» pour avoir acheté, grâce à des informations confidentielles, de grandes quantités d'actions de la société américaine Triangle, à la veille du rachat de celle-ci par la société française Pêchev.

France: huitième scrutin en un an

Les Français sont appelés aux urnes les 12 et 19 mars, pour élire les membres des Conseils municipaux. Ces élections municipales sont le huitième scrutin en France en moins de douze mois, après notamment les élections présidentielles et législatives. La bataille pour les trois grandes villes de France — Paris, Marseille et Lyon — constitue l'enjeu majeur de ce scrutin. A Paris, les socialistes veulent briser le monopole de la droite, qui contrôle les 20 arrondissements de la capitale. A Marseille et à Lyon, la bataille droite-gauche se double d'une querelle entre personnalités du même bord. Le maire sortant de Marseille, Roger Vigouroux, socialiste exclu du PS, se présente contre Michel Pezet, candidat investi par le PS. Même scénario à Lyon, mais à droite: on y assiste à une lutte fratricide entre le maire libéral sortant, Francisque Colom, et le chiraquien Michel Noir (RPR).

Le saviez-vous?

L'islam est la deuxième religion pratiquée en France, avec 2,5 à 3 millions de fidèles (dont 10% seulement de pratiquants à la prière du vendredi). Viennent ensuite le protestantisme (800.000) et le judaïsme (550.000). Sur ces pratiquants, près de 200.000 sont étrangers, le nombre de musulmans de nationalité française n'excédant pas 40.000. Les Algériens d'Algérie, descendants naturalisés et Français de souche convertis à l'islam. Les Algériens forment le gros des troupes (800.000), suivis par les Marocains (450.000), les Tunisiens (190.000) et les Turcs (125.000). Les Palestiniens, qui se sont distingués dans la manifestation contre Salman Rushdie à Paris le 26 février, sont moins de 15.000 fidèles. (d'après Le Monde).

Téhéran rompt avec Londres

Rushdie isolé

Téhéran a encaissé mardi sa menace proférée la semaine dernière de rompre ses relations diplomatiques avec Londres, accusant la Grande Bretagne de «trahison» anti-islamique dans l'affaire Rushdie. Margaret Thatcher avait pourtant ouvertement fait état cette semaine de son antipathie pour l'auteur des «Versets sataniques». Salman Rushdie, qui se cache toujours, semble de plus en plus isolé, voire critiqué en Occident.



Rushdie: encombrant

Dans un communiqué de l'agence officielle IRNA, le ministre iranien des Affaires étrangères a annoncé la «rupture totale des relations diplomatiques» entre les deux pays, à l'issue d'une semaine — heure pour heure — d'ultimatum donnée par le Parlement iranien à Londres pour «clarifier» sa position sur le livre de Salman Rushdie. Le parlement n'avait pas spécifié ce qu'il attendait précisément du gouvernement britannique. Mais les médias iraniens, contrôlés par les autorités, avaient clairement demandé un retrait du livre litigieux de la vente et l'interdiction de sa publication.

Les relations diplomatiques entre Londres et Téhéran étaient certes déjà réduites au «plus tenu des fils», depuis la fermeture de l'ambassade britannique à Téhéran après la condamnation à mort de Rushdie. Mais la rupture totale entérinée par les récents espoirs britanniques de gros contrats d'exportation vers l'Iran.

Le Foreign Office a estimé de son côté que «la situation présente est entièrement le fait de l'Iran». Selon un porte-parole, «l'incitation au meurtre est une violation des principes les plus élémentaires régissant les relations entre deux Etats souverains». Margaret Thatcher avait cependant ouvertement critiqué Salman Rushdie cette semaine, jugeant son livre «profondément offensant» pour l'Islam.

La «dame de fer» ne fait pas mystère de son antipathie envers son écrivain de gauche qui l'a souvent et durement attaquée. Quant au ministre des Affaires étrangères Sir Geoffrey Howe, il a affirmé qu'il «n'était pas besoin d'être musulman pour être offensé et furieux» à la lecture de certains passages des «Versets sataniques».

Pas de patronage du livre

Mais rien n'y a fait. Quelles

que soient les réticences exprimées sur le contenu du livre, Londres a opposé cette semaine une fin de non-recevoir aux tentatives de Téhéran de renouer le dialogue, maintenant sa position de principe: l'Iran doit d'abord retirer sa condamnation à mort de Rushdie. «Nous ne patronnons pas ce livre; mais nous défendons le droit à la liberté d'expression et de publication», a déclaré jeudi Sir Geoffrey.

Il n'en reste pas moins que Salman Rushdie est de plus en plus isolé, le scandale des «versets sataniques» ayant torpillé le rapprochement en cours entre l'Iran et l'Occident. L'ONU et l'URSS ont prôné l'apaisement, estimant qu'il faut comprendre les préoccupations des pays islamiques et du monde entier. Le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU a décidé de ne pas discuter de l'affaire Rushdie, «pour ne pas donner l'impression d'isoler Téhéran» avant la reprise des négociations de paix Iran-Irak.

Le Parlement européen, pour sa part, a décidé de ne pas inviter Rushdie à une conférence sur le racisme organisée par le CEE à Strasbourg le 14 mars, officiellement pour des raisons de sécurité.

Au Vatican, le quotidien officiel l'Osservatore Romano a critiqué «la part d'irrévérence et de blasphèmes» contenue dans l'ouvrage de Rushdie, exprimant sa «solidarité» envers les musulmans qui ont pu se sentir blessés dans leur dignité de croyants.

L'attitude de nombre de responsables occidentaux pourrait se résumer ainsi: il faut défendre le principe de la liberté d'expression et l'Ayatollah n'aurait pas dû condamner Rushdie à mort, mais celui-ci s'est peut-être mis dans son tort... (F.D., d'après agences, Le Monde)

Waldegrave dans les territoires occupés et Amman

L'appel aux modérés

Rechercher le dialogue avec les modérés en Israël plutôt que renforcer une «mentalité d'assiégés» à Tel Aviv: tel est en substance le message transmis mardi à Amman par William Waldegrave, ministre adjoint chargé du Moyen-Orient au Foreign Office britannique, après visite de cinq jours en Israël et dans les territoires occupés.

«Il faut soutenir ces forces en Israël, qui sont pour l'instant désorganisées mais influentes, et qui veulent une solution politique», a-t-il dit. M. Waldegrave a ajouté que la Grande Bretagne essayait de convaincre les responsables israéliens de la nécessité d'une conférence internationale. «La sécurité d'Israël ne dépend pas seulement de ses forces armées, mais aussi de relations pacifiques avec ses voisins», a-t-il dit.

Le Roi Hussein, qui a reçu M. Waldegrave à Amman, a exprimé la satisfaction jordanienne devant «l'attitude compréhensive» du gouvernement britannique et de ses «efforts sérieux» pour rendre possible la tenue d'une conférence internationale de paix.

M. Waldegrave s'est montré

prudemment optimiste sur la tenue d'une conférence de paix, estimant toutefois que le refus d'Israël n'était pas une position tenable. Critiquant l'occupation de la Cisjordanie et de Gaza, il a jugé «inacceptables» les méthodes israéliennes de répression. Il a souligné l'urgence de «mettre un terme à la situation d'injustice et d'oppression qui prévaut».

Mais, à l'instar des ministres de la «troïka» européenne, M. Waldegrave a insisté sur la nécessité d'apporter l'adhésion israélienne à un plan de paix, et non de forcer la main à Tel Aviv. «Il ne nous appartient pas d'imposer le cadre d'une solution, nous ne le pouvons pas du reste. Pour qu'un règlement soit durable, il doit être négocié librement par les parties concernées (...). Nous pensons qu'en ce sens, les cinq membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies ont un rôle particulier à jouer», a-t-il dit, ajoutant que son pays poursuivait sa concertation avec la CEE et les Etats-Unis.

Selon lui, le changement de politique de l'OLP n'est pas tactique mais stratégique et mérite une «réponse positive d'Israël». Interrogé sur la nécessité d'un Etat palestinien indépendant

pour régler le conflit israélo-arabe, M. Waldegrave a répondu que son pays soutenait le principe de l'autodétermination palestinienne. «En amis des Palestiniens, nous estimons qu'une confédération avec la Jordanie servirait au mieux leurs intérêts», a-t-il dit.

M. Waldegrave a enfin décrit les incursions à la frontière israélo-libanaise comme dommageables au processus de paix. «Elles doivent cesser des deux côtés», a-t-il estimé. Les Etats-Unis ont dénoncé vendredi les attaques palestiniennes dans le sud du Liban, la dernière en date par le FDLP, mettant en question le renoncement au terrorisme de l'OLP si la centrale palestinienne ne pouvait ou ne voulait contrôler la faction qui la constituait. Le responsable de l'information à l'OLP, Yasser Abed Rabbo, avait accusé la semaine dernière les Etats-Unis d'«hypocrisie», en soulignant des «tempêtes artificielles» à propos d'un accrochage entre des combattants et une armée d'occupation.

Selon M. Waldegrave, ces opérations sont menées pour embarrasser Yasser Arafat et pour porter atteinte au processus de paix. (d'après J.T., agences)

«Les Boulingrin» et «Gros chagrin» au RCC

La Belle époque du rire

«Goûtez, c'est de la mort aux rais, je vous assure». Monsieur Desrillottes, qui s'apprêtait à passer une bonne soirée chez les Boulingrin, y réfléchira à deux fois avant de rejouer les piqués-assettes. Monsieur Boulingrin a une dent contre sa moitié et entend faire juger par l'hôte déconfit que les haricots de Madame sont immangeables. Et Madame, qui exerce son mari, prend Desrillottes à témoin des turpitudes de Monsieur. Ils s'arrachent littéralement leur invité, qui fait les frais de leur scène de ménage.

«Tu assomes Monsieur» lance Boulingrin à sa mégère. De fait, le profiteur moudain est bien étourdi. A chaque fois qu'il tente de filer à l'anglaise, Monsieur le rattrape au vol en le ceinturant pour l'obliger à boire un dernier verre, menaçant. Quant à Madame, sa rage ne fait qu'un bond devant le refus folle de Desrillottes de l'enlever: on en vient aux armes, avant de tout casser et d'incendier l'appartement. Charmante soirée, vraiment.

Georges Courteline, dans cette farce de la Belle époque, dépeint cruellement les moeurs de la société bourgeoise, les épiques dans le nid du foyer. Les effets comiques sont certes classiques, mais la tarte à la crème dans la figure ne laisse pas le spectateur sans réaction. On rit de bon cœur devant un spectacle accessible à tous. Servi, qui plus est, par une interprétation très convaincante. Jean-François Dobelle, en petit bourgeois grossier et violent, est irrésistible.



«Vous repreniez bien un peu de mort aux rais?» (J.F. Dobelle face à M. Musallam. En haut: R. Malky. En bas: Y. Bensaid.)

«Les Boulingrin», de Georges Courteline. Avec Yazid Bensaid, Muriel Musallam, Rula Malky et Jean-François Dobelle.

Mieux vaut avoir deux clés qu'une seule. Surtout quand il s'agit de celle du secrétaire de votre mari, mesdames. Mais quand Gabrielle, écrivelle de la haute société, tombe sur une lettre d'amour d'une danseuse à son époux, elle se précipite en hurlant à la mort chez son amie Caroline. «Une lettre sordide, pleine de dégoûtations», s'insurge-t-elle devant sa confidente aléchée. «L'as-tu tu, mon cœur?», s'enquiert sur le champ la comère. Et Gabrielle de remettre ses hurlements. Les futilités de la conversation ne tarderont pourtant pas à consoler son gros chagrin. A propos de la danseuse, Caroline lui lui remet en tête sa chanson célèbre: «J'ai z'une p'tite

Les deux pièces, formant un seul spectacle, seront jouées jeudi 9 et samedi 11 au Centre culturel royal, à 20h15. Billets: 1 dinar, 500 fils pour les étudiants. Mise en scène d'Olivier Roche, costumes d'Ana Samir.

HUMEUR

Merci, Khomeiny

A quelque chose malheur est bon. L'affaire Rushdie porte en germe autant de questions, et donc de dialogue, que de haine irraisonnée: quel est le degré de tolérance de l'islam? Les Occidentaux et les musulmans se connaissent-ils? Or, jusqu'ici, on assiste surtout à une débauche d'invectives, loin de toute forme de vrai débat. D'un côté les Occidentaux renforcent passivement leurs préjugés infaniles sur l'islam, de l'autre des musulmans dénoncent la «conspiration» venue de l'Ouest. Nnn. Khomeiny n'est pas tout l'islam. Et quant à la conspiration occidentale, elle reste à démontrer. Mais il existe sûrement un manque d'information sur l'islam, dont les médias occidentaux présentent largement la face la plus spectaculaire. A savoir l'ayatollah de Qom, qui a toujours su tirer profit des effets de presse.

Cette fois encore, on est en droit de se demander pourquoi cette condamnation à mort n'intervient qu'en février, alors que les «Versets sataniques» sont sortis en octobre. Khomeiny, en offrant à Rushdie une publicité inespérée, n'utiliserait-il pas l'affaire, qu'il a provoquée, à des fins de politique intérieure?

Mais là n'est pas le propos. L'islam, dont l'Occident voit surtout les interprétations rigoristes, compte parmi ses adeptes beaucoup de gens de progrès. A commencer par Sa Majesté le Roi Hussein, descendant du Prophète. N'a-t-il pas, par exemple, toujours soutenu la responsabilité de la femme dans la société? Non, la femme brimée n'est pas une caractéristique de l'islam, comme le pensent beaucoup d'Occidentaux, mais seulement de certains exégètes. Et les manuels de savoir-vivre féminin édités par le clergé français au début de ce siècle n'ont

rien à envier en rigueur à certains adeptes actuels de la femme-ombre en terre d'islam. Tout est question d'époque et de lieu. De même la Charia, dans l'Andalousie musulmane, était plus progressive que les juridictions comparables des royaumes chrétiens, comme le souligne Nequib Mahfouz, Nobel de littérature. Et il suffit d'avoir vu l'obscurantisme de l'Inquisition dans «Le nom de la Rose» au cinéma pour savoir que des chrétiens ont été capables de brûler l'intelligence sur le bûcher de la foi. La violente réaction à «La dernière tentation du Christ» de Martin Scorsese en est la plus récente illustration.

Le problème des relations Occident-monde islamique, et de la relation Europe-monde arabe en particulier, est celui de voisins qui croient se connaître mais dont les ressentiments obstruent les yeux. Et ce pour deux raisons: le tabou israélien et le passé colonial mutuel, engendrant mauvaise conscience et schématisation d'un côté, rancœurs de l'autre. Il est aussi celui du rapport dominant-dominé. Si, sur le plan politique, il faudra du temps pour expurger le débat de ces œillères, il n'est pas normal qu'elles rejaillissent sur les échanges culturels.

La balle est dans le camp de la presse, qui devrait plus souvent informer sur l'islam au lieu de réagir seulement aux manifestations de ses extrémistes. Et les individus devraient profiter de l'émotion actuelle pour discuter, au lieu de se tourner le dos. Quand le sang bout, les langues se délient. Et parler — par cri — ne peut faire que du bien. En ce sens, l'affaire Rushdie peut renforcer la compréhension Orient-Occident. Merci, Khomeiny.

F.D.

FIGURE

Césars: avé, Adjani

Record absolu pour Isabelle Adjani, l'actrice française d'origine algérienne: elle a obtenu samedi pour la troisième fois le César de la meilleure actrice (équivalent des Oscars américains). Avec elle triomphe le film «Camille Claudel», de Bruno Nuytten: pas moins de cinq Césars, dont celui du meilleur film, pour ce portrait de la femme-sculpteur, élève et compagne d'Auguste Rodin (Gérard Depardieu), qui passa les trente dernières années de sa vie dans un hôpital psychiatrique.

Adjani, qui «préfère travailler dans l'ombre pour mieux apparaître dans la lumière», cultive le mystère. Elle a disparu dès la fin de la cérémonie, boudant le «souper des stars». Mais elle a été bouleversée par la foule des Parisiens accourue pour l'ovationner Place de l'Etoile, en pleine nuit.

La saga d'une famille du Nord, «La vie est un long fleuve tranquille», d'Etienne Chatiliez, a pour sa part remporté quatre Césars dont ceux de la meilleure première œuvre et du meilleur scénario. Accessit pour Jean-Jacques Annaud, César du meilleur réalisateur pour «L'Ours». Le film ouest-allemand «Bagdad Café», de Percy Adlon, remporte de son côté les Césars du meilleur



Adjani en Camille Claudel

film étranger et du meilleur film de la CEE, attribué pour la première fois.

Enfin, Jean-Paul Belmondo, qui avait par avance décliné toute récompense («le public est le seul juge»), a malgré tout été consacré par ses pairs comme meilleur acteur pour sa performance dans le film de Claude Lelouch, «L'innocence d'un enfant gâté». Deux Césars d'honneur ont été remis au comédien Bernard Blier, l'acteur aux 180 films, et à l'un des pères du dessin animé français, Paul Grimault.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

De Nivôse à Frimaire, la Révolution vue par le cinéma:

— Les Chouans

D'après le roman de Balzac, un film de Henri Collet, avec Jean Marais et Madeleine Robinson (1947): Le marquis de Moutaurean est l'âme de la révolte des Chouans (royalistes de Vendée) contre la Révolution, en compagnie d'une intrépide amazone, Madame du Gua. CCF, mardi 13 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

— Si Versailles m'était conté

De Sacha Guitry, avec Bourvil, Jean Marais, Orson Welles (1953): Les heures de gloire du château de Versailles à travers les siècles. CCF, mercredi 15 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe). Et aussi: «Les mariés de l'an II» (le 20) «Chouans» (le 21, 1989) (le 27).

Annie Hall

De Woody Allen, avec Woody Allen, Paul Simon et Diane Keaton: aventures amoureuses dans les milieux artistiques sur fond de psychanalyse à outrance. Centre américain, jeudi 9 et dimanche 12 à 19h00 (en anglais).

Palermo oder Wolfsburg

Nicola, immigré italien, assassine une jeune Allemande qui l'a séduit pour rendre jaloux ses amis. Deuxième partie. Goethe Institut, mardi 14 à 20h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Nashville skyline

Une heure avec deux musiciens améri-

calins de «country music»: Roney Crowell et Gary Nicholson. Centre américain, mardi 14 à 19h00.

En italien

«Quinto potere», drame social avec Faye Dunaway et Peter Fich. Hayat arts centre, jeudi 9 à 19h30.

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 9: Sirkler. The Innocent. Under fire. A man and a woman. Alfredo Alfredo. Le 10: Dams. The heritage. The way we were. Hanna K.. Amar Akbar Anthony (Indian). Le 11: Enemy mine. The dawn of the cave bear. Harcort. The world according to Garp. Sweet day blitter day (Egyptian). Le 12: Flash Gordon. 100 rifles. Splendor in the grass. Days of Heaven. Habibiya ya habi ya. Le 13: Life force. Name in the race. This property is condemned. Missing. Wedding in Galilee (Palestinian). Le 14: Eliminations. Honey Calder. Gentlemen prefer blondes. Time after time. Hard Years (Algerian). Le 15: Buck Rogers. Cotton Club. Unfaithfully yours. Bad lands. Witches of Eastwick.

Films en version originale. Tél. 683961. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem, sans 1ère à gauche, 300m.

THEATRE

Gros chagrin

Les Boulingrins

RCC, Jeudi 9 et samedi 11 (Voir article ci-dessus)

EXPOSITION

1789

A travers 32 affiches, la Révolution française passée en revue: la prise de la Bastille, la déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen, la terreur. Un rappel des grands hommes, des grands dates et des grands principes. CCF, à partir du mardi 14 et jusqu'au 23.

Salon international du livre à Amman

Lecture: la mal-aimée jordanienne

A la vue de la foule se pressant dans les travées du salon international du livre à Amman cette semaine, on aurait pu croire à un marché florissant. Il n'en est rien.

Et pourtant, ce n'est pas la foi qui a manqué pour organiser cette foire de 12.000 livres, à un moment où l'économie jordanienne connaît le creux de la vague. Le succès du salon camoufle en fait la confusion régnant chez les éditeurs jordanien, soit 153 sociétés enregistrées à fin de 1988 au Département des publications.

Un chiffre encourageant? Ne jouons pas sur les mots. Sur le nombre, moins d'une vingtaine sont de véritables maisons d'édition. Les autres, malgré leur appellation officielle, ne sont que des distributeurs. Comme toutes les industries du pays, celle du livre affronte deux difficultés: un investissement lourd et un marché intérieur limité. D'autant plus que la concurrence extérieure est féroce, surtout avant la chute du dinar.

«Il existe une protection du livre, sous l'impact de l'UNESCO: on ne peut pas le taxer à l'importation, alors que le matériel d'imprimerie, lui, est taxé», explique Gazi Sa'idi, directeur des éditions Dar El Jall, une grosse maison en Jordanie. «Du temps où le dinar était fort et le livre libanaise faible, les éditeurs locaux étaient concurrencés par les importations venues de Beyrouth, abondantes et bon marché», poursuit-il.

Et maintenant? Les importations se sont raréfiées, mais le problème est le pouvoir d'achat



Les livres religieux suppléent largement la littérature dans les bibliothèques jordanien

des consommateurs: on achète moins de livres. Cette baisse de la consommation est perceptible depuis trois ans. Et la crise ne touche pas la seule Jordanie; même les exportations dans les pays voisins, qui constituent les deux tiers du chiffre d'affaires des éditeurs jordanien, tournent au ralenti.

Spécialisation

Les moins malchanceux sont sans doute les petits éditeurs, qui impriment à Beyrouth. Faisant fi des droits d'auteurs, ils continuent à vendre sans entrave des rééditions «pirates» de romans populaires bon marché. Autre vache à lait pour eux, les écoles professionnelles, qui sont besoin d'impressions en petites quantités de livres «maison».

Les gros éditeurs, pour assurer leur survie, ont recouru à la spécialisation. Au moins trois d'entre eux se sont spécialisés dans la littérature islamique, un marché incratif depuis le regain d'in-

térêt porté à la religion depuis dix ans. D'autres se sont fait un nom dans le créneau «conflit israélo-arabe».

Mais d'une façon générale, il est à noter que les livres jordanien (sur la Jordanie ou écrits par des Jordaniens) ne constituent que 7% du marché local. Et ce pour deux raisons: manque de confiance et manque d'organisation. En premier lieu, les auteurs jordanien ne sont pas pris au sérieux par les éditeurs, comme s'en plaint le Syndicat des écrivains jordanien, formé en 1987. La plupart des écrivains sont obligés de s'auto-éditer. Mais même pour ceux qui ont les moyens, le parous du combattant n'est pas fini. Il leur faut ensuite affronter les distributeurs, qui leur retournent leurs livres «faute d'acheteurs». «En fait, c'est faute d'enthousiasme dans le marketing qu'ils ne les vendent pas», estime Jamil Allouh, un écrivain du syndicat.

«La seule façon de faire de l'argent, c'est de connaître quelqu'un dans une école ou, mieux, d'y enseigner soi-même pour vendre aux étudiants des livres sur un sujet spécifique. Avec cette diffusion assurée, les éditeurs sont intéressés», ajoute-t-il.

Les auteurs se plaignent en second lieu du manque de structures pour les soutenir. Jusqu'à la création du ministère de la culture en 1987, le département culturel se désintéressait purement et simplement de l'édition en Jordanie. Ce soutien est meilleur aujourd'hui, selon le syndicat, que durant la période chaotique qui avait précédé la dissolution de l'Association des auteurs (Rabitah) en 1987.

Cette désintégration avait constitué la phase aigüe d'un malaise dans le milieu intellectuel, chez les auteurs et les lecteurs. Selon l'écrivain Mohammad Salim Jumaia, le syndicat a éclaté sous la pression de querelles intestines entre activistes politiques et puristes de l'art, entre des clans ethniques et régionaux. La disparition de la Rabitah n'a pas provoqué beaucoup de réactions. Les Jordaniens se désintéresseraient-ils de leur littérature?

Succès du livre religieux

Si l'on se limite aux chiffres, les éditeurs et les auteurs sont d'accord pour dire que le volume de livres lus est minuscule par rapport aux autres pays arabes. Un constat étonnant pour un pays au taux d'éducation très élevé. En fait, il y a un problème d'incitation à la lecture. La seule structure collective qui pousse les gens à lire est l'institution religieuse,

estiment les éditeurs. Les ventes de livres religieux font prospérer, par exemple, l'éditeur Dar Al Bashir. On les imprime en quantités massives, d'où leur prix avantageux: 1 à 3 dinars le livre religieux contre 4 à 5 dinars pour de la littérature.

Mais l'appât de lecture existe en Jordanie, au-delà de considérations financières, au moins chez les gens religieux prônes. Comment expliquer dans ce cas le piètre succès de la littérature? La réponse est simple: c'est la crédibilité de l'activité intellectuelle qui est battue en brèche en Jordanie. A une époque de difficultés économiques et d'incertitudes politiques dans la région, il y a mieux à faire que de lire. Telle est en substance l'attitude, consciente ou non, des Jordaniens devant l'imprimé.

Mais il y a pire: les intellectuels jordaniens se désintéressent eux-mêmes par leur apathie. Jusqu'à aujourd'hui, on n'a jamais vu surgir de figure de proue de la littérature jordanienne, à la manière d'un Taha Hussein ou d'un Nequib Mahfouz. Pas d'œuvre majeure, à l'aune de laquelle on pourrait mesurer la qualité des autres, qui stimulerait les plumes. De l'aveu des éditeurs, confirmé par les écrivains, la littérature jordanienne se caractérise par sa médiocrité.

Il faudra du courage pour élever la scène littéraire locale. Courage économique des éditeurs, qui doivent prendre le risque de publier des Jordaniens. Courage littéraire des auteurs qui doivent innover, accepter la critique, créer des controverses. Ce n'est qu'à ce prix qu'ils seront lus.

Samer Badaro

Focus on People

Hard work pays

This week Ghada A. Debbas talks to Focus on People about how she became Jordan's first woman bank manager. She discusses how she dealt with professional mobility as a woman and as an Arab in a non-Arab institution.

By Mariam M. Shahin

SOME people are given a choice in life about their career and future while others are not. What each makes out of their given opportunities is what proves them as successful individuals. Unlike most people, Ghada Debbas began her career as a banker even before she finished her higher education. Graduating in 1975 with a degree in accounting and business, she was offered a job by the directors of a newly opened branch of the American bank, Citibank, as an executive trainee. The bank's approach was made as a result of her exceptional academic performance in the accounting department at the University of Jordan.

Born in Syria and raised in Jordan by her Palestinian-Syrian parents, Debbas had a traditionally strict upbringing. She attended the Sisters of Nazareth primary and secondary school and when she expressed her desire to study pharmaceutical science — which was not taught at any Jordanian University at the time — her parents duly enrolled at the University of Jordan, where she chose and qualified to study accounting, without any further discussion.

Remembering her disappointment at not being sent to study abroad as many of her classmates did, "Debbas says, at the time I was very upset, but now I realise that it was providence. I would probably not have been as successful professionally had I studied pharmacy as I had intended."

"Most of the people being hired by Citibank at the time where graduates from American universities. The bank also picked their trainees from those graduating at the top of their class at the University of Jordan. The selection process was long and tedious and finally seven Jordanian students were selected; three girls and four boys. We went to Beirut several times to be interviewed by different members of the administration which had its regional offices in Lebanon. At the end I and three of my male classmates were chosen to become executive trainees at Citibank."

Subsequently Debbas was given the post of financial controller, which dealt with management planning systems for Jordan, Syria and Iraq. She spent the next three and a half years taking on new responsibilities and working an average of 12 hours a day. "At the time Citibank's staff was not as extensive as it is today, so I did not have anyone to help me even with the monthly reports or the four annual reviews," she says. "Computers were not in at the time so all our configurations were being done manually. It was very tiresome work."

In 1979 Debbas asked to be transferred to the credit and marketing section of the bank's rapidly growing Amman branch. The top administration was not keen on transferring Debbas to the position that she had requested. "No one wanted my job of financial controller because it was so time consuming," she recalls. "Furthermore, the administration told me that there was no woman in Jordan who was working in the field of credit and marketing which was the department I requested to work in. It took a lot of convincing to get the bank just to give me the chance. It was my luck that the regional manager, who by then was based in Athens, believed in giving female employees a chance. After the effort I had put in during the previous three and a half years and the quality of my work I deserved to be given at least that. After a lot of push and pull, I was finally given the job. The management decided to give me foreign accounts for fear that local customers would be hesitant in dealing with a woman. I was put in charge of several European and Asian multi-national accounts. I dealt with Japan extensively. In due time, the corporate head of the bank began appointing more women to the credit and marketing sector and I was assigned local accounts."

"In order to get my next promotion I had to actually compete with an already appointed resident vice-president who was an American male. Whenever I made professional criticism I was accused of being jealous. My chance came when the department was divided into two and we had two work teams literally competing to do a more efficient job."

"To make a long story short, my team was more efficient and consequently I was made vice president in 1985, this was the last prerequisite to becoming manager of Citibank's Amman branch."

After long deliberations Debbas was appointed as the first woman bank manager in Jordan on May 1, 1987.

Reflecting on her "long climb to the top", Debbas recalls: "When I first started working I never thought of being the boss; it was not a targeted ambition. It was a promotion that developed with time and experience."

"I believe in the learning experience, for when we stop learning we stop living. Every time you change your post in a banking institution you learn something new."

Debbas also pointed out that many of her Jordanian colleagues had changed jobs and gone to work for other institutions because they felt that "in an American institution they would not have the opportunity to get to the top."

As far as the society is concerned, "people reacted very positively to my appointment. My family was very supportive and my co-workers were equally proud," Debbas says. She pointed out that women in particular were very enthusiastic about the changes that had occurred.

By the time Debbas had become branch manager of Citibank in Amman, the staff had almost entirely Jordanian. "With foreign institutions in any country, the executive bosses are often hesitant to turn over the key positions to locals. But, we, as a team, have proved up to par with our counterparts in the U.S." The Citibank in Jordan is practically the only Middle Eastern branch run by local talents.

A key to success in the professional world, as perhaps with everything, is self-confidence, according to Debbas. "Self-confidence gives you the strength and courage to make decisions and take action. Education and schooling play major roles in the forming of these qualities."

Recalling her own education at home and her years of schooling Debbas believes that her mother was a guiding force. Having taught French in Damascus before getting married, "she knew the importance of self-confidence and the pride of achievement," says Debbas.

Asked about starting a family of her own, Debbas says, "I believe and am confident that you can have both a family and a career. The only problem is that in our society people have been taught to think otherwise. I will never put my profession before my womanhood. Therefore there is no need for me to give it up to be a woman. As soon as men and women realise that different talents can be compatible and are not by virtue a threat they will realise that there is no need to feel intimidated. As far as starting a family is concerned, as soon as I find a compatible person I would love to start a family."

Debbas's future with Citibank is still wide in the open. "Usually a position such as mine is held by the same person for a minimum of three to four years. Afterwards who knows where I'll be transferred. As I said — when you move you learn, and when you learn the sky is the limit, you know your alive."

A mosque in the centre of Christianity

By Philip Pullella
Reuter

ROME — A muezzin on a minaret calling Muslims to prayer in the historic centre of Christianity?

Twenty-five years ago the Vatican wouldn't hear of it but now a mosque is being built in Rome with the moral support — if not the outright blessing — of the holy see.

When the impressive building is completed next year it could assume major significance in the dialogue between two of the world's great religions.

"This is a work of exceptional historic, religious, cultural and political importance," said architect Vittorio Gregotti over the din of jackhammers at the construction site.

"It will have a tremendous impact on public opinion."

To their great surprise, Italians recently learned that Islam has become the second largest reli-

gious group in their country, which is 98 per cent Roman Catholic.

Muslims number only about 400,000, but that is more than Jews, or Protestant Christians.

Many of the Muslims are North Africans who have come to Rome looking for work. They boosted a community traditionally made up of diplomats and businessmen.

Others are the some 10,000 Italian Roman Catholics who have converted to Islam — one of the thorny subjects discussed at an Italian bishops' seminar last month on relations with Muslims.

The imam at the Rome mosque will hold no hierarchical position in the Islamic world. But his proximity to the papacy could give him a leading role in Muslim dialogue with Catholicism.

Apolitical

Prince Abolghassem Amini, the 82-year-old Iranian head of the Islamic Cultural Centre which is

overseeing the project stressed that the mosque would be completely apolitical.

"This will be a place of religion. Politics will have to stop at the door," said Amini, who coordinates contacts with Islamic countries funding the \$30 million project.

The eternal city's first mosque was originally proposed in the 1930s to fascist dictator Benito Mussolini as a place of prayer for subjects from Italy's short-lived African empire.

The dictator, who in 1929 concluded a historic pact with the Vatican making Roman Catholicism the state religion, responded with his characteristic bluntness, saying he would allow a mosque in Rome when a Catholic church was permitted in Islam's holy city of Mecca.

After World War II Arab countries continued to lobby Rome but the first sign of movement was not until 1965 when the second Vatican council officially de-

clared Roman Catholic respect for Islam.

During a visit to Rome in 1973, Saudi Arabia's late King Faisal won a commitment from the Italian government after Pope Paul VI had assured then Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti that the Vatican would not block the project.

The search for a site began. The Vatican privately rejected one hilltop location because it would have given the mosque a dominating position in sight of St. Peter's Dome.

City officials and the Islamic Cultural Centre finally agreed on a low-lying wooded site on a north bend of the Tiber river several kilometres from the Vatican. Work began in 1983.

Finest material used

The 2,000 square metre mosque is made of the finest Italian building materials, including Travertine and Peperino Stone,

and small craftsman-finished bricks.

The central dome is 26 metres high, flanked by 20 smaller domes and half-domes. Inside, towering modern pillars open up like fingers to support a sky blue ceiling.

The mosque's minaret will be only as high as the central dome because authorities refused approval for a higher spire.

Computer studies by the universities of Rome and Manchester in Britain refined traditional surveying methods to ensure that the mosque points exactly toward Islam's holy city.

"There is probably no mosque in the world which points toward Mecca more precisely than this one," said Gregotti.

Architect Paolo Portoghesi, who designed the mosque along with Gregotti and Sami Moosawi, an Iraqi living in London, said it is Rome's most imposing construction in 40 years.

"Its religious and political sym-

bolism is very important, a sign of the times. It shows that none of the three great religions considers itself the sole depository of absolute truth," he said.

Prince Amini, whose boundless energy belies his old age, said there was enough money to finish the mosque by next year.

Historic visit

Amini is confident that after the mosque opens it will host a historic event — a visit by Pope John Paul.

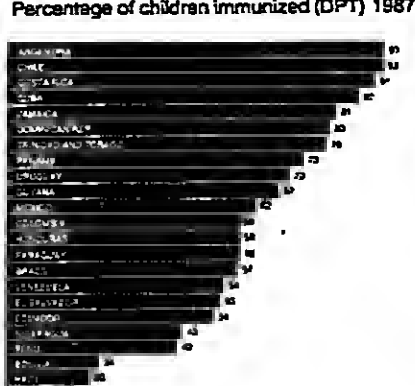
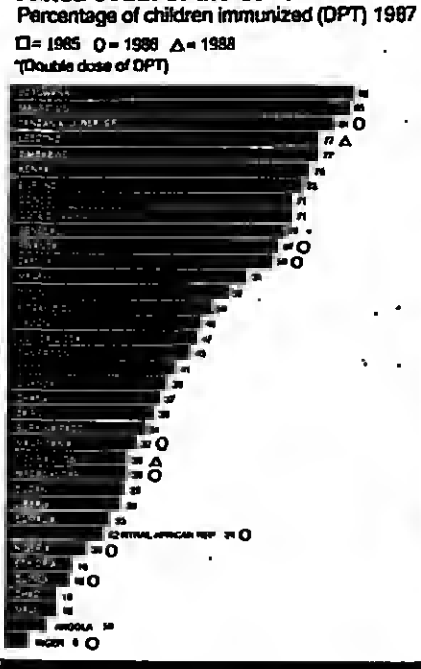
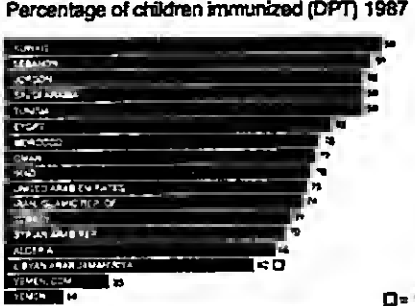
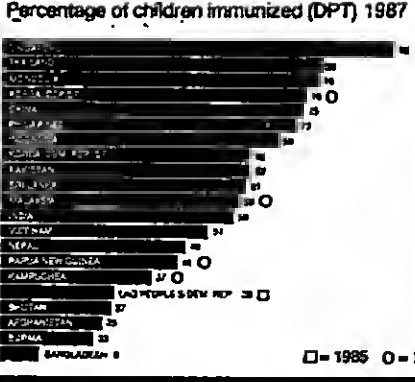
He said the Pope, whom he admires greatly, is "morally bound" to make the first papal visit to a mosque because he visited Rome's synagogue in 1985.

Until then, Amini waits and watches his dream become reality, brick by brick.

"I have become old with this dream," he said in a cracking voice. "This is my dream and the dream of all Muslims."

Immunization
A league table

Over 3 million children die in the developing world each year from diseases which can be prevented by immunization. This year, UNICEF has issued league tables ranking the countries of each region according to the percentage of their children who have received three doses of DPT vaccine. This is also a good test of how many are being reached by the other main vaccines.

Americas
Percentage of children immunized (DPT) 1987Africa south of the Sahara
Percentage of children immunized (DPT) 1987Middle East and North Africa
Percentage of children immunized (DPT) 1987Asia
Percentage of children immunized (DPT) 1987

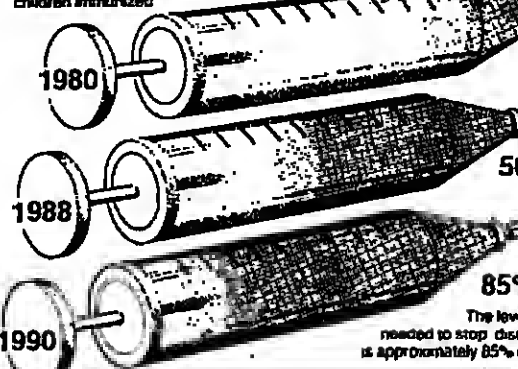
Saving children

This year's 'State of the World's Children' report from UNICEF says that half the child deaths in the world and as much as half of all child malnutrition are caused by either vaccine-preventable diseases or diarrhoeal dehydration. And in both cases, the world has at its disposal a relatively simple low-cost solution. The charts show how far the world has come in applying those solutions — and how far there is still to go.

Immunization

Vaccines are saving a million children a year — but could save 3 million more.

Percentage of developing world's children immunized

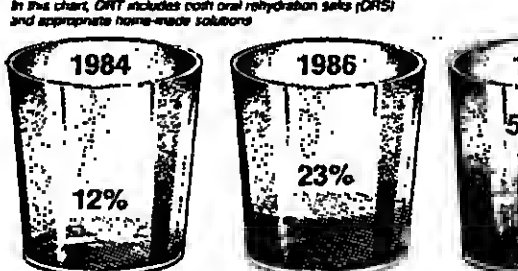


In 1980, 5% of the developing world's children were immunized and nearly 5 million died every year of vaccine-preventable diseases. Today, 50% are immunized. Most nations can still achieve the UN target of universal immunization by 1990. But all parents need to know when, where, and why their children must be immunized. Possible new vaccines against malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, and AIDS mean that the immunization system now being built may be one of the greatest human investments ever made.

Oral rehydration

Oral rehydration is saving about 750,000 children a year — but could save 2 million more.

Percentage of developing world's children treated with ORT in this chart. ORT includes oral rehydration salts (ORS) and appropriate home-made solutions.



Dehydration caused by diarrhoea is the biggest killer of the world's children. Yet it can be prevented by oral rehydration therapy (ORT) — 50 simple and cheap tablets can be used by all parents. ORT means replacing the liquid lost by giving the child gruels, soups, rice water, breastmilk or a special drink called ORS. 112 developing countries now have programmes to teach parents ORT. But the majority of health workers are not yet familiar with the therapy.

"It will soon become a matter of national disgrace, and an indictment of both national and international development efforts, if millions of children are still being killed, maimed, blinded, and brain-damaged, by diseases which our civilisation has the overwhelming power to eliminate." — UNICEF

Giving the world's children their due

UNICEF says that for a sixth of mankind, the march of progress has become a retreat. Advances made in early health care and welfare can be accelerated if funds are spent more intelligently by donor governments and authorities in the world's poorest countries.

By Russell Holden

CARDIFF, Wales — The year 1989 marks the 10th anniversary of the U.N.-designated International Year of the Child, a bold initiative launched by UNICEF with the objective of improving child welfare and the protection of children's basic human rights around the globe.

Ten years on, however, UNICEF's latest "State of the World Children's Report" opens with the indicting statement that "for one sixth of mankind, the march of human progress has become a retreat. At least half a million children have died in the last 12 months as a result of the debt crisis and recession."

The reality, however, is not quite as bleak as the report's opening suggests. Plenty of evidence exists to show that there have been developments in child health care and welfare during the 1980s, but in numerous instances progress has been hampered by economic malaise.

Throughout Africa and Latin America the average family incomes have fallen by 10 per cent to 25 per cent since 1980. For the poorest this has resulted in cut-

ting down on necessities. Indebted governments have cut expenditure on social services and welfare programmes — once again hurting children most.

In fact, the 40 least developed countries have slashed spending on health by 50 per cent per head and on education by 25 per cent per head during the last few years — whilst in almost half of the world's developing countries the proportion of six- to 11-year olds in school is now falling.

World's poor

Geographically, this grim picture is only mitigated by the continued economic progress of most Asian nations, yet Asia still contains the majority of the world's poor. One third of all children deaths still occur in just three countries, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

In the field of health care, the most remarkable progress that has taken place since 1979 has been in immunisation, where the proportion of infants immunised in the developing world has risen from 5 per cent to over 50 per cent. As a consequence vaccines are now saving the lives of approximately 1.5 million children per

year. Considered almost impossible only a few years ago, many nations are now closing on the U.N. target of 85 per cent immunisation coverage of children by the end of 1990. China was expected to reach the 85 per cent by the end of 1988, two years ahead of schedule. India, home to 20 per cent of the world's infants, is now passing the 60 per cent mark after several years of strenuous efforts, whilst Botswana, Cuba, Egypt, Gambia, Iraq, Oman, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia and Tanzania have almost reached the 85 per cent target.

In part, the achievements in immunisation are a result of improvements in vaccines and the equipment used to transport and store them. A major boost, however, has come from the strategy termed "Social Mobilisation." This involves maximising the use of all available social resources — government institutions, teachers, religious leaders, community organisations and the mass media — to inform and support parents in using immunisation services.

Such advances are, according to UNICEF, "amongst the greatest humanitarian achievements of our time." But both past achievements and future hopes are threatened by continuing economic crisis.

Outside of Asia, development has been derailed by a 30 per cent

fall in the price of raw materials and the accumulation of a staggering debt of more than \$1000 billion. Repayments of capital and interest are claiming 25 per cent of export earnings and the developing world is now transferring \$20 billion a year more to the rich nations than it obtains in new aid and loans.

Arguing for drastic debt reduction by governments and commercial banks is, according to UNICEF, insufficient. It is rather a case of a combined strategy of debt reduction and increased aid that is essential and long overdue. Without growth it will, in UNICEF's words, be merely a "rearranging of the furniture inside the debtor's prison."

Addressing itself to the question of the appropriateness of aid, UNICEF urges that priority status be given to the provision of adequate nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation, primary health care, and basic housing and education. In suggesting this course of priorities, UNICEF rightly concludes that it is only

these measures that will generate public support and assistance. As UNICEF Executive Director James Grant points out, there is disillusionment with aid and development efforts as "aid is not always serving the best interests of the world's poorest people and poorest countries."

Case in point

An obvious case in point is the fact that over 30 per cent of United States non-military aid now goes to just two countries, Egypt and Israel. Not one country in Sub-Saharan Africa, the world's neediest region, is even in the top 10 recipients of U.S. aid, and nor is India, with almost half of the world's absolute poor.

Taking the Western industrialised countries as a whole, over half of all aid is now tied to the purchase of goods and services from the aid-giving country. Less than 25 per cent of aid is given to the 40 least developed countries, less than 15 per cent goes to agriculture, less than 11 per cent goes to education, and less than 5 per cent is devoted to health care.

On the other side of the equation, UNICEF quite correctly reminds us of many indiscretions and unwise decisions made by recipient governments in accordance with priority status to schemes that will only benefit the governing and bureaucratic elites in developing countries.

According to UNICEF statistics, as much as half of the \$30 billion to \$50 billion a year required to meet basic human needs could have come from a re-allocation of resources by the governments of the developing countries themselves. This year's report cites as an example the case of water and sanitation. In

this case 80 per cent of the £12 billion now being spent in the developing world each year, is devoted to providing services for better-off urban groups at an average capital cost of \$600 per person served, with only 20 per cent being allocated to the provision of services for the poorest at an average capital cost of \$20 to \$30 per individual.

Ten years on from the great declaration the priorities remain unchanged, yet UNICEF for "the first time" is mounting a sustained challenge to the world's political leaders and economic gurus. The realisation has dawned that ultimately political will and economics dictate how far individuals will be helped by their governments and the international community.

Another two to three million lives a year could be saved, another 240,000 cases of polio per year prevented, and the major causes of blindness, malnutrition and mental disability could be removed at a cost of \$500 million — the price of two advanced fighter planes. Yet it is apparently only a vast human catastrophe of the magnitude of the Ethiopian drought in 1984-5 that is ever likely to boost such basic humanitarian ideals up the international political and economic agenda, much to the chagrin of UNICEF and many millions of decent minded people around the globe. — Academic File.



Made in Germany must remain a seal of good quality:

One of Federal Economic Affairs Minister Helmut Haussmann's main aims is to tone up German industry in preparation for the single European market. He recently brushed up his English by taking an intensive language course given by Duston Jones Jr. (left) from Trinidad.

Cinema

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Michael Jackson
In
MOON WALKER

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 9:00



Cinema

NUJUM

Tel: 675571

Noor Al Sharif
In
The Death Ward
(Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema

PLAZA

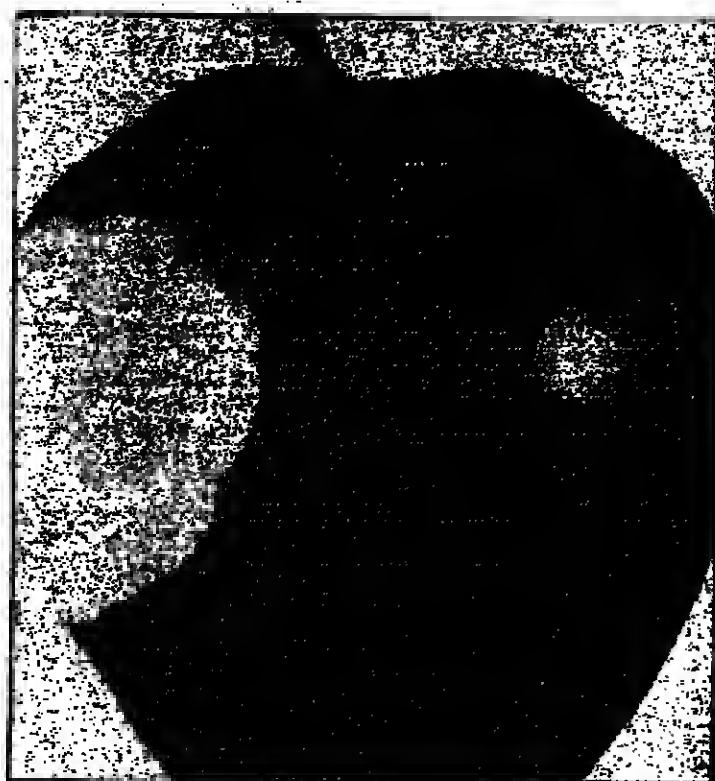
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NO WAY
OUT

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



سكايير



Eating dangerously!

By Nicholas K. Geranios
The Associated Press

YAKIMA, Washington — The great American apple, baked in a pie and teamed with motherhood as the symbol of all that is wholesome in the United States, is once again under attack for health risks.

Alar, a chemical used to make apples crisper and more colorful, was labeled a possible carcinogen last week by the private National Resources Defence Council, adding more fuel to nationwide concerns.

That is an ironic twist for an industry that spends millions of dollars each year promoting the healthful aspects of apple consumption.

Most growers have voluntarily halted the use of Alar, fearing bad publicity more than bad production. But many are bitter over a furor they say is unnecessary and unfair.

Ban in 1990

"There is absolutely no imminent health risk in eating apples or apple juice or apple sauce or any other apple product," said Charles St. John, a spokesman for the Washington Apple Commission, which has a grower-financed \$14-million annual budget to promote apples around the world.

Alar is the trade name for Daminozide, a chemical growth regulator marketed by Uniroyal Chemical Co. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced last month that it intends to ban Alar by 1990, but for now it is still legal to use. The cancer risk from Alar was not so bad as to warrant an immediate ban, the EPA said.

Washington state grows half the nation's apples sold at grocery stores, with thousands of workers employed in packing and shipping the fruit, and making juice, applesauce and other products.

The council's report last week warned that eating Alar-treated apples increased cancer risk, especially in children.

The report said that children who consume large amounts of fruit and fruit juice face a cancer risk of about one case for every 4,200 preschoolers exposed in Alar.

The report has been attacked by some scientists and the acting EPA head as misleading and promoting hysterical fears. Some growers are launching a counter-attack.

"It's not illegal and not in any way harmful to anybody's health," said Marv Sundquist, who co-owns an orchard near

Yakima. "There are so many other things we consume every day that have so much greater risk than this would have."

The Washington Apple Commission contends only about 5 per cent of the acreage is sprayed with Alar. The State Department of Agriculture puts the figure at about 7 per cent.

The council estimates are somewhat higher, but no one really knows for sure how much Alar is sprayed because its use is not regulated. Uniroyal has said Alar sales are down 75 per cent since Alar fears were first raised in 1985.

Alar is not a pesticide, and it can't be washed off the apples by the consumer. It is sprayed on trees in the spring and acts to keep apples on the tree longer. That makes harvesting easier, improves the apples' colour and firmness, and extends their shelf life.

Pocketbook concerns

The Alar dispute hits growers in the pocketbook in more ways than one. U.S. consumers want crunchy, colorful apples, and they simply cannot be produced in national volume without chemicals, St. John said.

"When you ask the consumer, 'will you buy something that is not as appealing or crunchy (but not treated with chemicals)?' They'll tell you 'yes, I would,'" he said. "But we know from actual practice in supermarkets that they don't."

"Americans have been so pre-conditioned that everything we purchase must be the biggest and best," he said. "Our lower grades of apples aren't as appealing... and we are not able to sell them."

The chemical first came under a negative spotlight in 1983, and by 1986 the Washington Apple Commission was recommending that growers not use it.

The industry has hoped that the completion of extensive tests on Alar would clear it for use. But the EPA announcement last month that it planned to ban Alar, on the basis of preliminary testing, was viewed as a major setback.

It is only the latest apple industry chemical to come under fire. Earlier this century, growers sprayed orchards with lead arsenate in an effort to kill codling moth. That drew fire from the food and drug administration and overseas customers. Nicotine was later tried, but was expensive and made applicators sick. When DDT came into use in 1947 it was considered a miracle, but was ultimately banned by the EPA.

Flowing through the world of Arab music

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Browsing through the world of music, melody lovers are sometimes lost in the maze of choices — the mild and soft rhythms, the noisy or even the wild and exotic. Yet it is an international language understood by all inhabitants of the planet earth, perhaps "because there is so much feeling communicated in both instruments and singing that you can understand it no matter what language you speak," according to Robert Schick, an American learning Arabic music in Jordan.

An archaeologist by profession, Schick says that it is important for an individual to learn a little bit of music to add to his own culture. Through it he can get a very good understanding of people.

Russell Packard, a professional musician, also learning Arabic music, seconds Schick's view of music as being a "bridge between different cultures," he says "singing and making music can help build strong character, develop cooperation and create a feeling

of unity. Packard is the leader of a band named Crossing Borders. The group of plays ethnic music and songs learned during travels to the South American Andes to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Europe, Ireland and Scandinavia as well as North American traditional, contemporary and originals. "As a professional musician, I was moved by the powerful emotions expressed in the music accompanying oriental dance. Specially in Na'i, because flute is my major interest," he added. "My first encounter with Arabic music was when Mohammed Fadel (a Jordanian violinist) came to Minnesota and I heard him play the violin, it was a very good performance that I decided to come here to Jordan to learn Arabic music. He had originally intended to go to Egypt for that purpose."

Amman, Packard believes is a better place to study music. "It is a safe and clean city, people are kind and friendly, and here at the conservatory they have some of the best musicians in the Arab World; while Cairo is a big bustling tourist centre." On the other hand, Schick took his first Arabic music appreciation class at Cañon

University but he chose Amman's National Music Conservatory since he was living in Jordan.

"I particularly liked the sound quality of the qanoun which is a lot more complex than the oud (flute). It is a very complex and refined instrument with different variation in tuning, unlike the simplified version which we have in the U.S.," Schick explained. Packard stressed the fact that it is very important to go to the country of music to be able to sing with sentiment as the same place of origin.

Lack of appreciation

"Unfortunately," Packard said "here at the conservatory they have music appreciation for children only. Only recently have they introduced appreciation of Arabic music."

Packard said in amazement "Arabic has more scales and is much more complex than Western music, which only has major and minor ones. Even singing in Arabic is much richer to the ear, and much more is left to the human talent, specially in recitals."

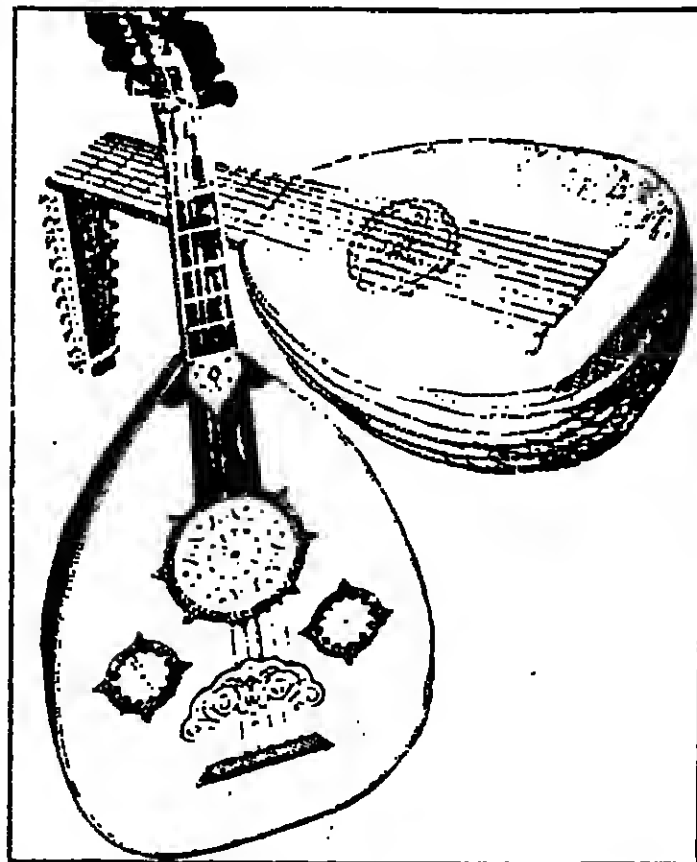
He pointed out that "this has to do with the duration of the song,

with the help of the radio, a Western pop song lasts for about three minutes, so musicians have to play the exact written notes and cannot be as creative as in Arabic music. Arabic music takes its time, developing the feeling and the sentiment with which it is performed."

"As an archaeologist, I find it very helpful to listen to Arabic music in order to increase my understanding of the culture I am currently examining," Schick pointed out.

"Yet Jordan," Packard said "is a relatively new country, and it needs much time to develop its cultural activity, and this is the reason behind the lack of the interest in music and the meagre exposure to classical Arabic music. This despite the fact that Arabic culture has been developing for much longer time than the Western culture and consequently, Arabic music had much more time to mature," he pointed out.

Packard expressed his hopes that Jordan will expand its appreciation of its own culture, that it will establish music appreciation departments that are "badly needed" to introduce people to their own heritage.



Shukairy shows us more of ourselves

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times



AMMAN — The second solo exhibition of Rula Shukairy on at the Royal Cultural Centre until the end of the week is a satisfying confirmation of the potential this artist showed in her first show held some two years ago. With steady work Shukairy has been able to consolidate her ideas and themes to produce exciting, original work — especially in china ink — that is full of mystery and atmosphere.

Dominating the exhibition are not the large oils but the more abstract china ink paintings that are stacked one on top of another up the walls. The rich, dark colours — Shukairy's hallmark — of each painting whether large or

small blends, echoes and enhances those in its neighbour, so much so that these inks seem to form one rhythmic block of moody colour. This idea further emphasised by the way Shukairy applies the media — in cuts and sweeps of the knife that strip away the surface to reveal a wealth of colour hidden below.

In most of her inks, Shukairy takes abstraction uncompromisingly to its limits — an action that requires not a little amount of courage and confidence. With no apologies she lets her colours, forms and lines take over and slowly out of what seems to be hurried, hasty almost uncontrolled application, order emerges. Blow for blow, each plummeting depth is balanced by another, each patch of light by its sister to

produce in the best pieces solid, tight works of great mobility and feeling.

Art Review

Sometimes in these abstract pieces Shukairy adds the surprise of a group of little domed houses or a figure. Like finding a present in the middle of a chocolate, they turn the whole concept upside-down forcing the viewer to re-evaluate his ideas. There is a fine line however between compromise and making a statement and not all of these more figurative pieces avoid that mistake.

If Shukairy has achieved a greater sense of herself and her own direction in the inks, this is even more true of her oils. Unlike

the inks the best oils are not the totally abstract ones but those that depict mystical landscapes that hover behind veils of colour, there yet not there like some magical far off land about which one has heard but never seen. Slanting across the canvas, Shukairy's mountains recede into the deep distance their outlines mellowed by a hovering mist. Like dreams, we struggle to understand the real meaning of these mysterious images that are capable of moving us. Ultimately through these works it is probably ourselves that we come to know a little better and not the artist whose character continues to remain inaccessible and somewhat inscrutable.

The exhibition runs until March 9th.

Women in the French revolution

By Camille Herisson

PARIS — "Without the women, no Revolution!" Mirabeau used to say. In 1789, France numbered 12 million female citizens, for the majority peasants. In town, servants, seamstresses and employees received half the salary of their male counterparts for equal work. And that was not the only injustice they suffered from. Far from it.

So, at the time when each individual's status was being reinvented, they were essentially concerned. A representative of the female revolutionaries proclaimed this. "They certainly have the right to go to parliament as they have the right to go to the scaffold."

Throughout the Revolution, women fought to have their rights acknowledged. They were involved in all the events and in all the festivities. They came on the scene right from the Storming of the Bastille. It is true that there were few of them, but they were, nevertheless, present. An 18 year old Parisienne fired shots beside her lover. The seamstress Marie Charpentier, who became disabled as a result of a wound, figures among the "victors of the Bastille" who were granted an allowance.

The big day for women was

Oct. 6 1789 when they went to fetch Louis XVI in Versailles. Famine threatened and, in their distress, the Parisiennes appealed to the king's goodness. He understood them. He put an end to their misery and they snatched "the baker, the baker's wife and their little assistants" from the bad influence at court.

Off they went, pulling cannons with several women sitting astride them. They arrived in Versailles, bespattered by the rain, exhausted, and not having eaten anything for long hours. Were they going to take on the soldiers of the Flanders regiment guarding the chateau? Yes, but in their own way. Using their charm. They surrounded the troops and prayed them "not to harm the people," seducing them and having them fraternise. And the king gave way. The women brought him back to Paris, with his family. The romantic historian was to write: "The men took the Bastille and the women took the royalty."

The "tricoteuses" (knitters) appeared after the declaration of war in 1792. These were the women of the people who sewed, darned and patched, and made bandages for the fighters. But, above all, they knitted. They knitted everywhere. In the gallery of the Convention while upbraiding the parliamentarians.

And at the sessions of the Revolutionary Court where their shouts of "To death! To death!" drowned out the voice of the public prosecutor. In his "Memoirs" Abbe Morellet describes them, excited and vociferating, "most of them with fiery eyes, and a soldier-like bearing, faces worthy of Hogarth's brush."

These women citizens, whose needles were sometimes fearsome, even knitted at the foot of the scaffold. In the first row of the public, some of them dipped their handkerchiefs in the blood of the beheaded. One of them, Aspasie Carlemignelli went for the corpse of the parliamentarian Feraud, massacred in April 1795. These enraged viragos contributed to the reputation of the "tricoteuses" as blood-thirsty harpies, whereas most of them were simply women committed to seeing the Revolution triumph.

In Paris, the adversaries of the "tricoteuses" were the "poissardes" (fishwives) at the "Hales" central wholesale market, who, for their part, did not risk suffering of want. They were often royalist, or at any rate hardly Republican. They failed to wear the rosette of the revolution, a fact which was not appreciated by the "tricoteuses". In October 1793, the "tri-

coteuses" wanted to force the "poissardes" to wear it, but the fight turned out to their disadvantage. The "poissardes" fell on them and, to the amusement of the men, with their strong hands gave them an indecent thrashing." Michelet recounts.

And then there were the "amazons", in uniform, who went for the enemy. They filed past in good order, with the flag at the front and a bare sword at their sides. "with that gracious vivacity which is typical only of the daughters of France," Michelet wrote. There were only a few dozen of them. Not that there was any lack of volunteers. On the contrary. But the members of the Conven-

tion did not approve these wives, sisters and mothers deserting their homes to go and wage war. So they checked the movement.

But, at any rate, there were still some. They were gunners, grenadiers, infantry-women, some were sub-lieutenants and even lieutenants. Some, such as Marie-Paule Parent and Liberte Rose Barreau, became famous for their deeds of valour. The youngest was Anne Quatrezols, aged 16; the eldest Madeleine Petitjean, 49.

Women warriors were rejected from the army by a decree in April 1793. Some people considered them responsible for the

first setbacks of the revolutionary troops. A report by Carnot frightened the Convention: "A scourge is destroying our armies: it is the flock of women following them. The dissolution of morals is at its height. They irritate the troops and, through the diseases they bring, they destroy ten times more people than the enemies' swords." The anti-feminist general put the women-soldiers, the prostitutes and the adventuresses who joined the troops to get something out of it, all in the same bag. The result was that the fighters were expelled from the army together with the others. They were given "five sous" per league to go home."






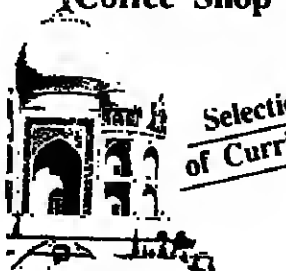
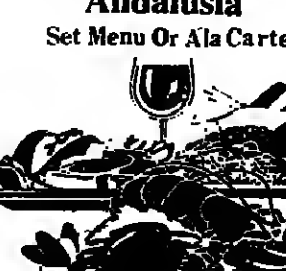


Women of the revolution

PLAZA

1989

TIMES

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
SUNDAY & EVERYDAY Luncheon Buffet at the Coffee Shop	Prime Rib Night at the Coffee Shop	Jumbo Shrimp Night at the Andalusia	Spanish Paella Night at the Coffee Shop	Steak Night at the Coffee Shop	Indian Buffet Night at the Coffee Shop	Sea Food Night at the Andalusia
						
JD.6.500 Adults JD.3.500 Children	Prime Rib Yorkshire Pudding Baked Potato, Vegetables Selection of Sweets JD.6.500 pp	Sea Food Cocktail, Shrimps: Grilled, Deep Fried, or Provencal Selection of Sweets JD.10.000 pp	Sea Food Soup Traditional Paella (Rice, Shrimp, Hamour & Calamari etc.) Selection of Sweets JD.6.500 pp	Chateaufort Roasted Steak Green Salad Baked or Fried Potatoes Vegetables Selection of Sweets JD.6.500 pp	Beef, Lamb, Chicken, Shrimp or Vegetables. Nam Bread Selection of Sweets JD.6.500 pp	Selection of Sweets JD.10.000 pp

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Asian countries lead rise in oil demand

NEW YORK (R) — Demand for oil in the non-communist world is expected to hit its highest level in a decade this year, according to the Energy Information Agency, and industry analysts said Asia's thirst for energy is the chief factor.

"The Asia Pacific rim is the engine of growth for world oil demand," said Edward Krapels, president of Energy Securities Analysis Inc. "It is the strongest-growing region."

The region, which includes Japan and Australia as well as the fast-growing economies of South Korea and Thailand, consumed about 7.1 million barrels of oil per day in 1988, about seven per cent more than in 1987, according to Helen Gallagher, an economist with Caltex Petroleum Corp.

Cypriot-Israeli contract draws Arab warning

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Arab League protested formally to the Cyprus government Tuesday over the hiring of an Israeli firm to execute a project funded by a loan from the Kuwait Development Fund.

An official statement warned that continued "trade and general economic cooperation between Cyprus and the Arab World, in addition to cooperation in the political field," may be endangered if the Israeli firm, Balasba-Yalon, goes ahead with the project.

The project involved is a feasibility study for a sewage network and treatment plant for the south coast port city of Limassol, which is jointly funded by loans from the Kuwait Development Fund and the World Bank.

The Arab League protest was made through a statement issued by the council of heads of the Arab diplomatic mission in Cyprus.

The statement implied but did not state directly that funding of the Limassol sewage project, and possibly other development projects on Cyprus, would be withdrawn if any work was undertaken by an Israeli firm.

The statement noted that the Arab envoys were not interfering in Cyprus' domestic affairs, but were voicing concern over "the irrefutable evidence... that the project was given in its initial stages to the Israeli firm Balasba-Yalon."

Major British firm moves into Greek spirits market

LONDON (R) — Britain's Grand Met drinks and leisure group said Wednesday it had bought the Greek Metaxa Brandy firm and a stake in a leading producer of ouzo, Greece's aniseed-flavoured spirit.

A spokesman said the purchase of SEA Metaxa Distillers and 30 per cent of N. Kaloyannis Bros International was made by Grand Metropolitan (Grand Met) PLC's International Distillers and Vintners.

The value of the Greek purchases was not being disclosed for commercial reasons, the spokesman said.

The Grand Met subsidiary offers such brands as J and B Scotch whisky, Bailey's original Irish cream liqueur and Smirnoff vodka.

Metaxa sells around 1.5 million cases of its brandy a year while Kaloyannis sells 900,000 cases of ouzo a year.

International Distillers and Vintners is buying the world dis-

tribution rights to Kaloyannis' Ouzo 12 brand.

The remaining 70 per cent of Kaloyannis is held by Spiros Metaxas.

Outside Greece, Metaxa brandy and Ouzo 12 sell especially strongly in West Germany where International Distillers and Vintners had been building up its business in partnership with the French firm Cointreau and Italy's Cinzano International.

International Distillers and Vintners has worldwide sales of more than £90 million (\$155 million) a year.

Grand Met, which sells some 90 million cases of spirits a year, had pre-tax profits of £575.1 million (\$989 million) in 1988.

Last year Grand Met fought a prolonged takeover battle with France's Pernod Ricard for Irish Distillers group. Pernod won control of the Irish whiskey firm in November and Grand Met said in January it would sell its 29.9 per cent stake to Pernod.

The statement claimed that a United States firm, Louis Berger Inc., had joined the project as a cover for the Israeli firm at a time when "a certain Arab country had given a loan of five million Cyprus pounds (\$10 million) to finance the project."

Although the statement did not name the Arab state involved, earlier official announcements named it as Kuwait.

Limassol Mayor Andonis Hapjaviou said earlier that the town council had picked the U.S. firm Louis Berger Inc. to carry out the feasibility study.

He said he was later informed by the firm that the study would be carried out in association with its Balasba-Yalon, its regional representative.

The Arab League statement said the Arab envoys were motivated by an "ardent desire for continuous rise in trade and general economic cooperation between Cyprus and the Arab World, in addition to cooperation in the political field."

But it said they "would like to draw attention to the dangers resulting from giving the above project to the Israeli firm Balasba-Yalon, even under the disguise of the American firm Louis Berger Inc."

The Arab League maintains a Boycott of Israel Office, which blacklists foreign persons or firms which deal with the Zionist state.

of the East-West Centre in Honolulu.

Demand in the entire non-communist world is projected to jump to 51.1 million b/d from an estimated 50.3 million b/d in 1988, according to the Energy Information Agency (EIA).

But the agency, which is a part of the Department of Energy, projects the rate of growth should slow to about 1.7 per cent from an unusually high 2.5 per cent in 1988.

The EIA forecast would be the highest since 1979, when it soared to around 52 million b/d. Most of the increasing demand is concentrated in transportation fuels.

"It is the transportation sector — gasoline, jet fuel, and diesel fuel — that is leading the growth in demand," said Paul Tossetti, director of international energy analysis at Atlantic Richfield Co.

Asian oil demand has surged because of sharply higher economic growth and an easing of restrictions on oil prices, said the East-West Centre's Fesharaki.

"The growth in oil demand in Asia reflects strong economic growth rates... but demand is much faster (here than elsewhere) because prices are low-

er," he said. "In the Far East there was been a significant decline in the price of oil for the first time."

"The car population in Asia is increasing very rapidly as the economies grow stronger — up 10.8 per cent in South Korea in 1988," said Calter's Gallagher. As a result, these countries are using more petrol, she said, adding that Asian jet fuel consumption also is rising very quickly.

Analysts said demand for residual fuel oil to drive electrical power plants is also expected to increase, especially in the Pacific rim.

Japan, which consumed about 4.4 million b/d of oil in 1988, was the largest oil consumer in Asia and is expected to continue in that role in 1989, consuming about 4.6 million b/d, according to Gallagher.

The United States, the largest non-communist oil consumer, is expected to use about 17.33 million b/d in 1989 compared with 17.15 in 1988, while Europe is forecast to consume about 12.48 million b/d versus 12.21 billion, according to the EIA.

Analysts said rising world oil demand has helped to steady prices by absorbing excess production.

Cuts help buoy prices

Meanwhile, export cuts by some oil producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have helped world crude prices to six-week highs, oil traders say.

The price of Britain's benchmark North Sea Brent blend, although weaker by the London close Tuesday at around \$17 a barrel for April delivery, was still up by around \$1.50 since mid-February.

Coupled with good demand from industrialised nations, prices show little sign of falling as a seasonally slack buying period in the second quarter of the year approaches, oil analysts said.

"Non-OPEC cutbacks in the second quarter should prevent prices from falling back too far from current levels and provide OPEC with greater confidence as it draws up its plans for the second half of the year," said Mehdi Varzi, oil analyst at London securities house Kleinwort Benson.

"We thus continue to retain our central \$16 a barrel Brent price forecast for 1989," he added.

So far, five independent oil producers — Egypt, Mexico, Oman, the Soviet Union and Angola — have announced cuts in oil exports amounting to 240,000 b/d. All these are for the second quarter, apart from the Soviet reductions in its hard currency exports which are for the first half of 1989.

North Yemen has said it will freeze exports at 190,000 b/d for the first six months of this year, instead of raising them to 220,000 b/d as planned. Malaysia is expected to confirm an export reduction of 17,000 b/d.

Some analysts believe China might also contribute to the round of cuts, possibly reducing overseas sales by 30,000 b/d.

The non-OPEC move contrasts strongly with the situation a year ago. Last April non-OPEC producers offered OPEC a cut of 183,000 b/d provided OPEC cut back as well. But OPEC was unable to agree a response and the offer lapsed.

This time, the non-OPEC group are not seeking reciprocal cuts by OPEC, which has already slashed output by some three million b/d since the end of last year to about 19.5 million.

As far as market fundamentals of supply and demand are concerned, the non-OPEC cuts are tiny. Non-OPEC's total exports amount to some four million b/d out of total oil production in the non-communist world of some 50 million.

'Trade barriers hamper Third World reforms'

GENEVA (AP) — Rising trade barriers in rich countries are threatening the success of moves toward economic reform and debt repayment in many parts of the Third World, U.N. officials told a meeting on trade and development Tuesday.

Neither sustained economic growth nor open-market commitments made when the current round of world trade talks was launched in 1986 "have broken the back of protectionism in the developed countries," said Kenneth Daddie, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In a keynote speech to the agency's 131-nation board, he cited a "widespread though varied movement toward trade-oriented policy reform in developing countries."

But Daddie said the efforts "cannot succeed without a supportive combination of financial and technological inflows and export expansion."

Tariff escalation in industrialised countries is cutting off access to finished and semi-finished products from developing nations, UNCTAD official B.L. Das told the two-week meeting.

Third World exports of textiles, clothing, farm products and tropical products continue to face above-average duties in developed countries, he added.

But debt-ridden developing countries are counting on opportunities to expand and diversify trade to escape from their economic crisis, Das said.

Daddie said many trade measures are directed specifically against imports from developing countries.

They include new non-tariff barriers and increasing export subsidies, market-sharing accords and surveillance measures, he said.

Tariff relief for Third World imports has been declining, he added.

UNCTAD is considered the main forum for the North-South dialogue. But it has tended to be eclipsed by world trade negotiations under the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, where developing countries can press their interests in global commerce.

Although the session may not be intended as a negotiation of the specifics and technicalities of external debt, we have concerns that such a session could raise unrealistic expectations within developing countries, which could undermine individual country efforts to restructure debt, obtain financing and implement needed reforms," said Cahill.

The developing world's external debt at the end of 1988 was \$1.3 trillion, according to World Bank figures.

The suspension follows similar actions by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank since 1986, and cuts off Peru from the last major source of development loans.

A spokesman for the economy and finance ministry confirmed the validity of a copy of a telex published in Tuesday's La Republica newspaper from the IADB to the Peruvian government.

The telex, dated March 1, said the IADB was suspending credit to Peru because it was more than 180 days behind in debt payments, the maximum period allowed under the bank's regulations.

He said his government's policy is to "have a positive cash flow" from the lending agency.

Government sources told the Associated Press that the IADB had rejected recent Peruvian requests for new development loans on the grounds that the projects presented for approval were hastily planned and did not meet technical requirements.

A ministry spokesman said Peru was \$70 million behind in payments to the IADB.

The World Bank has said Peru's foreign public and private debt totals \$19 billion.

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European car market faces decline in sales

GENEVA (R) — As leading lawmakers prepare to roll out their gleaming wares at the 59th Geneva International Motor Show, all the advance hype and the bluster cannot disguise the fact that European sales look set to fall this year for the first time in half a decade.

A sleek new Mercedes-Benz SL two-seater convertible, unveiled Monday, is guaranteed to draw crowds to Europe's first big car show of 1989 when it opens Thursday for 11 days.

But with an opening price tag of 68,000 each, SL sales will make only a tiny impact on the global market.

Buyers with more down-to-earth needs looking for something new this year are likely to be disappointed by the choice.

The only all-new mass-market offering is Ford Motor Co's redesigned Fiesta, which will compete in the small car sector against such existing ranges as the Peugeot 205, Renault 5, Fiat Uno, Volkswagen Polo and a host of Japanese offerings.

The Japanese carmakers are here in force, and European mass producers will no doubt be relieved that new models on offer from Asia are mainly peripheral.

Honda Motor Co Ltd has shown a mid-engined, two-seater sports car it says will compete with Ferraris and Porsches, while Nissan previewed its executive class saloon, the Maxima.

But luxury carmakers might feel some apprehension about cars yet to reach Toyota and Nissan's European stands.

Toyota Motor Corp's Lexus and Nissan Motor Co Ltd's Infiniti go on sale in North America in the autumn aimed straight at markets dominated by BMW,

Mercedes, Saab and Volvo. European sales in the U.S. last year fell 17 per cent to 574,600 and the relentless Japanese move up market continues.

A record 12.99 million cars were sold in Europe last year, spurred by new designs like Volkswagen A.G. of West Germany's Passat, Fiat SPA of Italy's Tipo, Renault of France's R19 and the Bayerische Motoren Werke A.G. BMW "5" series.

But as 1988 drew to a close, the industry was already bracing itself for a downturn in 1989 sales of up to 10 per cent. Higher interest rates and forecasts of overcapacity led to predictions of a coming shakeout among the major carmakers.

European car sales have shown spectacular growth, leaping from 10.25 million in 1984, and in the process overtaking North America in 1987 as the world's highest market for cars.

European consumers though so far seem to have sublimated high interest rates and gloomy economic forecasts, and continued to pour into the showrooms, raising sales by 11.5 per cent in January and forcing analysts to raise their estimates for 1989 to a more modest downturn.

"We still expect a downturn (in 1989) but not much of one," said Sanjay Dahysing, automotive group director at London forecasters DRI Europe. "January was well up, and we always thought the first quarter would be quite strong."

Dahysing predicts car sales will drop about three per cent this year. "I think the manufacturers will be very pleased about that, it's still a very high number."

Eastern, without pilots, likely to seek bankruptcy

MIAMI (R) — Eastern Airlines may file for bankruptcy after a judge said he could not order the carrier's 3,400 pilots to cross picket lines set up by striking machinists.

Eastern's unions have said they are ready for such an eventuality and would be prepared to fight for their rights.

Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Eastern's owner, Texas Air Corp., put his Continental Airlines subsidiary, into bankruptcy protection in 1983 in order to terminate its union contracts. The action, which made Continental highly profitable, gave Lorenzo a reputation as a union buster.

However, under new laws, Eastern would be reorganised under a court which would decide if it should remain unionised.

Eastern has demanded \$125 million in wage concessions.

On Tuesday Eastern fired an additional 2,000 workers, reducing its staff from 1,000 to 1,500. Although company officials expected to maintain 30 per cent of their flights despite the strike, the airline is operating only its shuttle flights between Boston, New York and Washington and flights to South America.

Analysts said the company had probably lost up to \$15 million a day since the strike began.

"I think I've made it very clear

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 8, 1989				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	528.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	418.0 422.0
Pound Sterling	324.7	333.9	Dutch guilder	257.0 259.8
Deutschemark	290.0	293.2	Swedish crown	84.7 85.5
Swiss franc	339.7	343.4	Italian lira (for 100)	39.5 39.9
French franc	85.4	86.3	Belgian franc (for 100)	138.5 139.9

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The All Ordinaries Index fell 15.6 points to close at 1,491.9. "The market is really suffering from a shortage of good news," one broker said.

TOKYO — More arrests of public figures in the Recruit scandal depressed an already nervous market. The Nikkei index fell 100.28 points to 31,837.66. "The main concern is interest rates. Political concerns are perhaps secondary," a broker said.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index fell 22.03 points to 3,058.65. "There's good institutional volume out there," said Mark Lawrence of Baring Securities. "But it's not big enough to drive the market back up."

SINGAPORE — Late buying of blue chips helped the Straits Times Industrial Index rise 4.52 points to close at 1,136.96. Brokers said the market's direction was uncertain owing to the lack of positive lead from overseas. "International interest rate direction was the main concern," one broker said.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose for the second day in a row on continued institutional and upcountry buying, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended down but off lows on a thin bourse as investors sought scattered bargains after uncertainty over Sunday's local elections prompted early falls. The Dax Index ended 6.29 points lower at 1,317.77.

ZURICH — Prices edged lower in active trading after early selling ceased and selected bargain-hunting lifted prices above the day's lows. The All-Share Index closed at 982.4 against 985 Tuesday.

PARIS — French shares pared midday losses in light afternoon trading, buoyed by Wall Street's early gains and some domestic buying. The 50-share price indicator finished down 0.27 per cent.

LONDON — Shares were mixed to easier, falling back from morning highs in moderate afternoon business. A firmer trend on Wall Street did little to inspire buyers. By 1550 GMT the FTSE was down 1.7 points to 2,081.8 points.

NEW YORK — Wall Street blue chips turned higher, near levels where they have recently fallen again. No special news caused the rise in this trading. The Dow was up five at 2295.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

New Zealand pick American for boat race

AUCKLAND (R) — American John Bertrand was a surprise choice Tuesday as tactician on one of New Zealand's three boats chosen to defend the Admiral's Cup off the Isle of Wight, England, in July. Bertrand, an Olympic silver medalist and tactician on the New York club challenger America II in the America's Cup series off Fremantle in 1987, was chosen ahead of Chris Dickson, skipper of New Zealand in the same series, as tactician on board the one tonner Propaganda. Announcing the key team positions, royal New Zealand yacht squadron commodore Don Brooke acknowledged that Dickson had worked towards becoming a member of the team but said experience had shown "There was no place for individuals in an Admiral's Cup team."

Ivory Coast boxer still in coma

LYON (R) — Ivory Coast boxer David Thio was still in a coma Tuesday, three days after being knocked out by American Terrence Ali in a non-title, super-lightweight bout. A spokesman at Lyon's neurological hospital said Thio's condition remained critical. The 22-year-old French-based fighter has not regained consciousness since being floored by a powerful upper cut in the ninth round of the bout. France's WBC super-welterweight world champion Rene Jacquot has publicly accused Jean-Marc Perono, manager of the previously unbeaten Thio, of a professional error in not stopping the bout earlier.

Soviet Union asked to stage world games

SOFIA (R) — The Soviet Union has been asked to stage this year's world student games and has promised a decision within two weeks, a top official with the international student sports organization (FISU) said on Tuesday. The Soviets were asked if the games could be staged in Kiev during a meeting of FISU's executive committee here, Boris Rogatyn, a Soviet vice-president of FISU, told Reuters. The request came after substitute candidate Duisburg, West Germany, said it could stage only four events — athletics, fencing, rowing and basketball — at the games. FISU rules call for the games, which have been seeking a new venue since last year when Brazil's Sao Paulo withdrew for financial reasons, to consist of 10 events. "The executive committee asked me towards the end of the meeting if we could stage the games in Kiev," Rogatyn said. "I replied this would have to be discussed and we could give an answer by March 21."

Lakers 106, Hawks 97

NEW YORK (AP) — James Worthy scored 24 points and Magic Johnson had 21 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds Tuesday night in leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 106-97 victory over the Atlanta Hawks. Retiring star Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who was honoured during halftime in his final regular season appearance in Atlanta, scored 16 points. The Hawks got within 93-90 with 5:46 left before a 13-2 run by the Lakers cemented the win. Los Angeles' fifth in six games. It was Atlanta's third loss in four games. Byron Scott added 18 points for the Lakers and A.C. Green had 15. All five Lakers starters scored in double figures. Dominique Wilkins led the Hawks with 27 points, followed

Rummenigge to retire

BONN (R) — Years of consistent goal-scoring as well as choirboy looks and a training in banking have no doubt ensured West German soccer star Karl-Heinz Rummenigge a healthy nest-egg for when he retires at the end of the season.

The 33-year-old former West German captain, who announced his retirement plans Tuesday, was one of Europe's most expensive players in the early 1980s.

His killer instinct as a striker, which brought him 48 international goals, was matched by shrewd financial acumen off the field.

The toolmaker's son who as a teenager left West Germany's industrial Ruhr valley to make his fortune with the Bundesliga's most glamorous club, Bayern Munich, was capped 95 times and twice voted European player of the year.

But it is impossible to talk about his achievements without money creeping into the conversation.

At Bayern, he became West Germany's highest paid player with an annual salary of 600,000 marks (then \$235,000).

In 1984, at the age of 28 — old for a striker — he signed for Italy's Internazionale Milan for \$3.8 million at the time a record for a European player.

Having trained in banking after he left school he refused to employ a manager for much of his career and ran his own financial affairs.

In business his blond hair, blue eyes and choirboy looks gave him a natural advantage.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The financial picture may be unsatisfactory due to fluctuations. Ironically, intuition is keen and you may profit when a lunch pays off. Unsettled feelings exist because of nervous energy.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

Domestic fare-ups must be coped with. Restrained emotions and give others room to express feelings. An adventure is a disappointment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Talk a close friend out of a hasty move that will restrict his development. A new social venue has added glamour and excitement.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Focus on reducing a social problem. Your absence and lack of attention can be felt by others. Don't expect to pick up the pieces.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)

Starting a new collection of something? Share your old garage sale finds. Incorporate metaphysical interests in your studies.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)

Evening should include drama and music. This is a key time to try if you are looking for something special.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

You have the Midas touch today when handling financial matters. Make good use of hunches and opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23)

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) An

early argument has no substance and should be ignored. Your second wind comes late when social engagements bloom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Caring people touch your life. Excessive bills poison your budget. Demands for peace and quiet have the opposite effect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Be upfront, straightforward and pleasant to people you work with. Develop a plan to spend additional time with young folks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Avoid power struggles. Profit from time spent with parents or relatives. Take the initiative to try new things that brighten life's boredom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

Develop some primitive activities to bring a change to your social life. A quiet environment will allow you to use your communication skills.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Your unassuming ways produce beneficial friendships. A chance to enter a self-improvement project can be in the air.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be generous, sentimental, but tough as nails when it comes to getting what he or she wants or needs. If you son or daughter will want to be self-sufficient at an early age, will have a romantic nature and attract many suitors.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1989

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

There may be value in what has been hidden from view. Some may profit by rediscovering a lost chance or by just casually stumbling upon an unexpected gain. Travel plans may be difficult.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

The exciting competition of your career spills into the weekend. Keep affairs low-key to allow for rest and personal pleasure.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)

Young family members are bumping competitive heads. Relieve the tension and monotony by starting new activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Your diversified lifestyle is the envy of others. Keep abreast of family affairs. Contact parents for a message.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21)

A gut feeling on how to handle an involved relationship has merit. Express your interest in artistic favorites.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)

Pressure is mounting over a relationship. Things you do today can affect your future lifestyle. A youngster needs you to be a good listener.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)

The situation you have been complaining about will require more time before it changes. Meanwhile, re-evaluate your past.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23)

A male's contradictory statements

have you wondering. The controversy seems if left alone. Just tell them to "read my smile!"

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Over-controlled emotions can get gridlocked and affect a new relationship. A new situation shows promising opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Stick the current budget in the shredder. The day is great for social adventure only if you keep the financial picture in perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Avoid one who is a walking soap opera. Your nature cannot tolerate those who insist on having the last word.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

Tell a cranky cohort to find a new landing site for his negative feelings. Don't cave in and give someone what he wishes for.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Compromise will be needed to keep things running smoothly. You agonize over jealous associates who cramp your style.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will be a delight to raise. Your son or daughter will be cuddly, loving, and responsive to affection. Expect your youngster to be competent and emotionally stable, yet shy at times. Your child will have a strong will than expected and, at times, will be stubborn and immovable.

Johnson's coach issues fresh allegations:

Top official planned tip off

TORONTO (R) — A top Canadian athletics official had knowledge of Ben Johnson's steroids use and offered to give advance warning if random testing was put into place, the disgraced sprinter's coach said Tuesday.

Charlie Francis, during his fifth day of sworn testimony in a government inquiry into drug use in amateur sport, said he spoke to Jean-Guy Ouellette, chairman of the Canadian Track and Field Association (CTFA), in June 1988 about a proposal to introduce random drug testing.

"Ouellette told me he was concerned random testing unit be introduced in Canada before the Olympic games (in Seoul last September) because it was clear we'd be out of the picture," Francis said.

"Ouellette said he didn't understand how Canada could be more Catholic than the Pope" in terms of having tougher drug testing of its own athletes than existed internationally," Francis said.

Francis, Johnson's coach since 1977, had earlier testified that the Jamaican-born sprinter began taking steroids in 1981.

"He (Ouellette) also went further than that and said if, in fact, random testing was put in, he would attempt to become involved so that he could find out and we could have some advance warning," Francis, 40, said.

In cross examination, CTFA lawyer Roger Bourque asked Francis: "If Jean-Guy were to deny he'd ever said he agreed to warn athletes of random testing, as I believe he will, you would say he was wrong?"

"Yes, I would," Francis said as Ouellette sat nearby in the hearing room taking notes.

Johnson was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal and world record of 9.79 seconds when traces of the banned anabolic steroid, stanozolol, were detected in his post-race urine sample in Seoul.

The CTFA introduced a policy of random drug testing of track and field athletes after the Olympics in September.

Bourque later asked Francis if he concealed from Canadian Olympic team officials in Seoul that Johnson had used steroids since 1981 even after he tested positive for stanozolol.

"Yes, I did nothing to disabuse them of their belief that Ben had not taken stanozolol," the coach said.

"So you allowed them to go" before the international Olympic committee medical commission to argue a false cause?" Bourque asked.

"It wasn't a false cause if in fact we believed he did not take stanozolol and that was my belief at the time and it's my belief now," Francis said.

On Monday, Francis admitted Johnson had taken the steroid furazabol and a banned human growth hormone as late as September 2, 1988 — three weeks before his race in Seoul.

But Francis said Johnson had not taken stanozolol since the spring of 1987 because the steroid caused his muscles to stiffen.

The coach testified that he suspected deliberate sabotage of Johnson's Olympic urine sample

was the only possible explanation for the finding of stanozolol in Seoul.

He said Johnson had been tested for drug use in competition 15 times in 1987 and twice in 1988 prior to his failed test in Seoul.

Johnson was not required to provide a urine sample at the Canadian Olympic trials in Ottawa in August 1988.

In earlier testimony on Tuesday, Francis defended the use of steroids and said to quit them while the rest of the world continued to cheat was like disarming unilaterally and inviting the athletic equivalent of "being naked."

"You don't remove your nuclear weapons and hope that everyone else will follow suit," Francis said.

Leonard fight tops \$30m

NEW YORK (AP) — The total amount of guarantees, revenues from foreign television sales, sites and sponsorship fees have topped \$30 million for the Sugar Ray Leonard-Thommas Hearns fight June 12, promoter Bob Arum said Tuesday.

Arum predicted the revenues from the 12-round bout at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, easily will surpass the revenues from Leonard's 12-round split decision upset over marvelous Marvin Hagler for the middleweight title April 6, 1987.

Michael Malitz, who is in charge of distributing the regional closed circuit and pay-per-view rights in the United States and Canada, said the bookings are completed and deals have been made with regional exhibitors in all 50 states and Canada.

The guarantees contracted exceeded those of the Leonard-Hagler bout by almost 20 per cent, Malitz said.

Mike Trainer, Leonard's attorney, said total purse money for Leonard-Hagler was \$28 million. He declined to say how it was split.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A J 9 3 ♣ Q J 9 ♦ A J 10 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A J 9 3 ♣ Q J 9 ♦ A J 10 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 3 ♣ K 7 ♦ A K 10 8 ♠ A K J 9 8 4
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 3 ♣ K 7 ♦ A K 10 8 ♠ A K J 9 8 4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 3 ♣ K 7 ♦ A K 10 8 ♠ A K J 9 8 4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
? What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 9 3 ♣ K 7 ♦ A K 10 8 ♠ A K J 9 8 4
The bidding has proceeded:
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take? Look for answers on Monday.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Since my hair is an endangered species, maybe I could get some government funding?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OPUCE

PIGER

HATTOR

COIPLE

WHAT A SUCCESSFUL PICKPOCKET ALWAYS TRIES TO GET NEXT TO.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

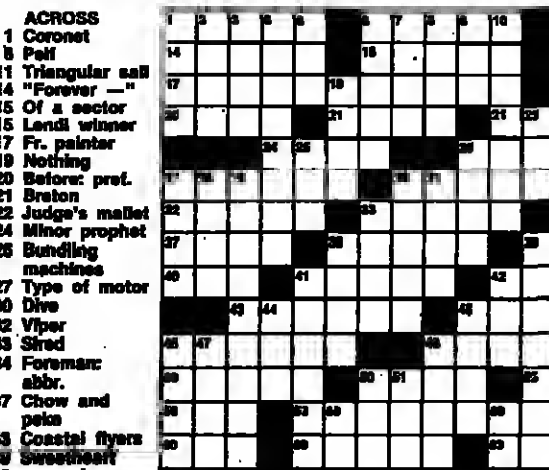
Answer the "JUMBLE" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BERYL KEVED ANKLE CUGEL.

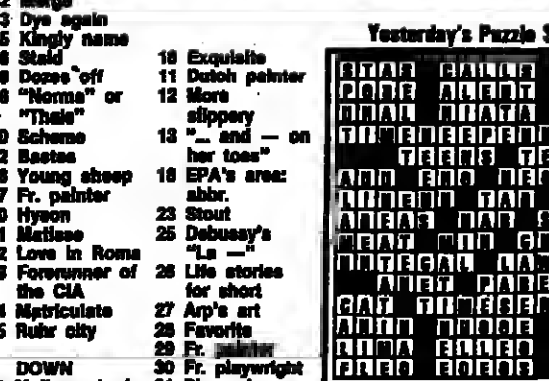
Answer: The first thing a man often runs into with a new car—DEBT.

THE Daily Crossword by Judson Trent

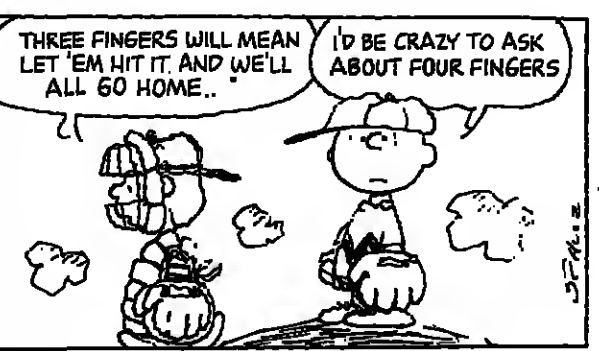
ACROSS
1 Coronet
8 Bell
11 Triangular sail
14 "Forever" —
15 Of a sector
16 Lendri winner
17 Peeler
18 Nothing
20 Before: pret.
21 Bruton
22 Judge's mallet
24 Minor prophet
26 Bundling machines
27 Type of motor
30 Dive
32 Viper
33 Strid
34 Foreman: abbr.
37 Chew and peels
38 Coastal byers
39 Southwest
40 — mode
41 Slender as —
42 Merg
43 Dye again
44 Ready name
46 Stale
48 Dope off
49 "Norma" or
50 Scheme
51 Beaten
52 Young sheep
53 Fr. painter
54 Hyson
55 Baffine
56 Love in Rome
57 Forerunner of the CIA
58 Mistrustful
59 Ruler city
DOWN
1 Mulberry bark
2 "old
3 Touch on
4 Free
5 Circle part
6 Little
7 Ruse, rangle
8 Copper
9 Outrigger
10 Exquisite
11 Dutch painter
12 More slippery
13 "and — on
14 "her toes"
15 EPA's area: abbr.
16 Stout
17 Debauchery
18 "La —"
19 Life stories for short
20 Art's art
21 Favorite
22 Fr. saint
23 Fr. playwright
24 Ripened
25 Machine gun
26 Cove
27 Impolite
28 Ashtabula's lake
29 Flowers
30 Embury side
31 Pellet
32 Aurore
33 Elapsed
34 — voice
35 Fencing
36 Swords
37 Lowest point
38 50 gun
39 Huff and puff
40 Inevitable
41 Adam's grandson
42 "The Way We
43 We
44 50 gun
45 Delight
46 West



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



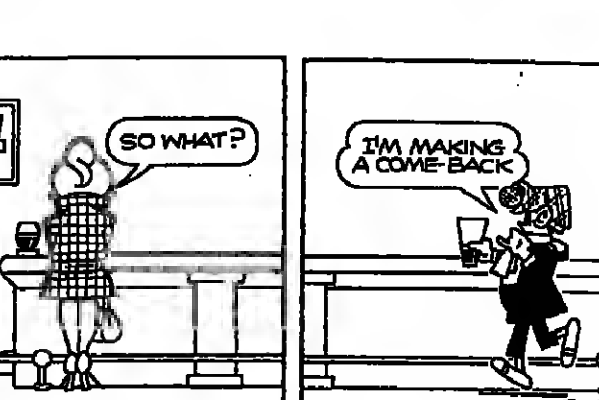
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Chances seen high for new arms cuts despite differences

VIENNA (R) — East and West still have major differences as they go into talks to blunt each other's firepower in Europe — but both camps rate the chances of an historic accord as high.

The conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks, opening in Vienna Thursday, will seek to slash stocks of military hardware amassed in 40 years of armed rivalry.

But the 23-nation talks will take negotiators through a minefield of detail which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact say will make these the most complex arms control talks ever undertaken.

"We have a difficult road ahead of us," said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a ceremonial speech Monday outlining the East bloc position.

But with the ground-breaking treaty scrapping U.S.-Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in mind and with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposed unilateral arms cuts underscoring a new Soviet approach, optimism is running high.

"There is a real sense of hope that we can put the 40 years' cold war behind us," British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said in his speech before 34 other foreign ministers.

The area under negotiation stretches from the Atlantic coast to the Soviet Ural Mountains. The talks are certain to last for years.

Running parallel, and underpinning gains at the CFE negotiations, will be 35-nation confidence-building talks designed to remove suspicions about peacetime military activities.

Positions sketched out so far show the two sides close on broad aspects such as cuts sought in rough percentage terms, the need for rigorous inspections and a declared common aim to avoid snafus over data.

NATO officials said Western negotiators would resist any Soviet attempt to expand the framework of the talks to include nuclear or naval forces, both excluded by prior agreement.

"It would be a sign of non-seriousness by the Soviet Union if they tried to bring these weapons in now," a NATO diplomat said.

Shevardnadze's speech mentioned both naval forces, where the Atlantic alliance is stronger, and nuclear weapons.

One early headache for nego-

tiators will be to define weapon categories and to work out common counting rules. The Warsaw Pact, for example, included light tanks in military figures issued in January while NATO counts only main battle tanks.

Nor do the two sides agree on which weapons to tackle first.

Moscow says priority must be given to troops and NATO's attack aircraft. The 16 Western allies say Soviet superiority in tanks, big guns and heavy armour is a priority since they can seize and hold terrain in any surprise land offensive.

They have proposed cuts down to equal ceilings of 20,000 main battle tanks, 16,500 artillery pieces and 28,000 armoured troop carriers on each side.

NATO estimates that this would mean cuts of about 60 per cent by the pact and about 10 per cent on its own side.

Western officials said Shevardnadze's call for reduction in individual weapons categories down to 10-15 per cent below that held by the weaker side seemed close to the West's position.

The NATO allies also want no single country to hold more than 12,000 tanks, 10,000 artillery and 16,800 armoured troop carriers each — but this would mean an almost 70 per cent cut in some cases by Moscow.

IRA slaying sparks sectarianism charges

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA), committed to cutting down civilian casualties, was accused of blatant sectarianism by church and political leaders after killing three Protestants in front of terrified schoolchildren.

The gunmen laughed, cheered and fired volleys into the air after the triple slaying at a garage in the sleepy County Tyrone village of Cough.

Church and political leaders on both sides of the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland were swift to condemn the IRA, which had pledged in 1987 to "refine its activities" after killing 23 civilians in botched

attacks.

Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, said: "The entire community, Protestant and Catholic, will be horrified by these callous murders."

The Reverend William McCrea, the local British member of parliament representing the province's Protestant majority, knew all three victims and wept as he told reporters: "The gunmen laughed and cheered because they had done a successful job."

Britain's Northern Ireland minister, Tom King, called the triple slaying "another revolting sectarian killing."

The IRA said it shot the men, two of them pensioners, because the garage was a stronghold for Protestant paramilitary extremists who killed a Sinn Féin councillor last month.

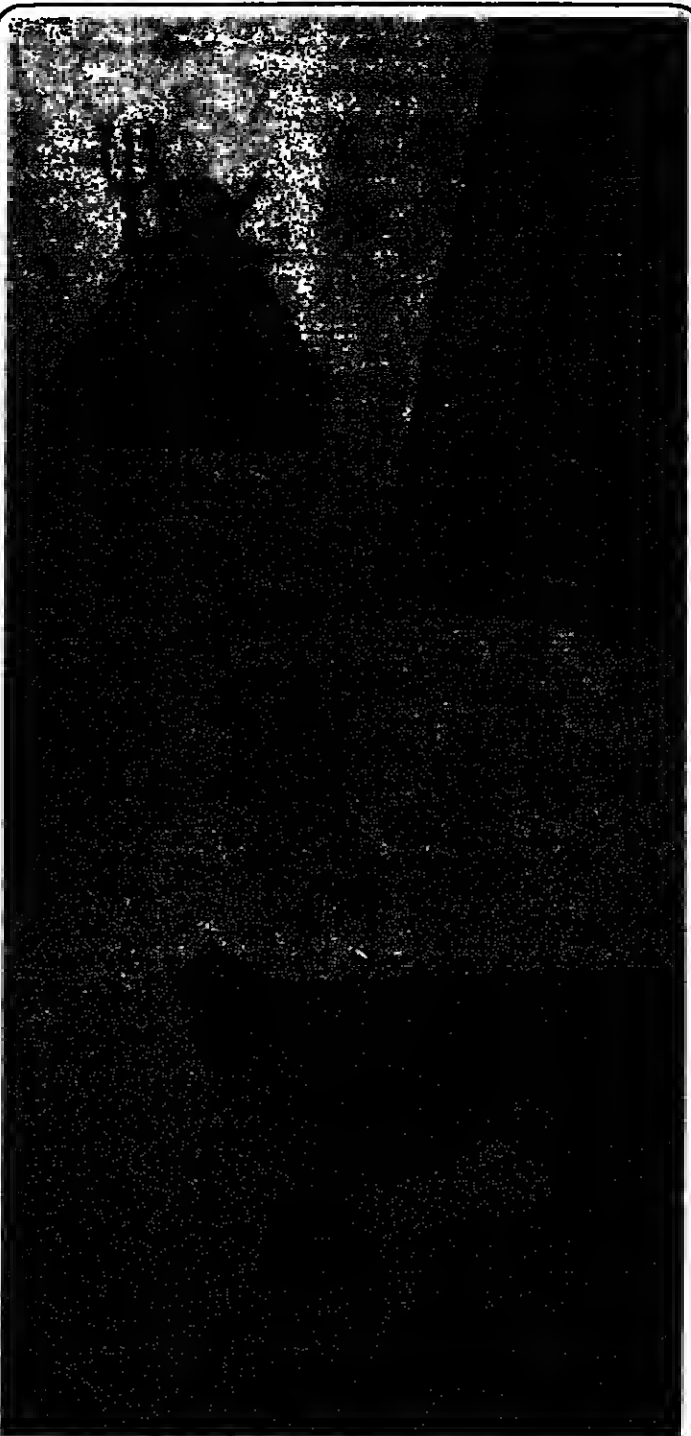
The killing sparked fears that paramilitary extremists could launch into another bloody round of "tit-for-tat killings."

It could also cause problems for Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, who is eager to widen his support in the run-up to Northern Ireland local elections in May and European elections in June.

Adams constantly stresses the need for IRA guerrillas to "be careful out there" and restrict their campaign to what they consider legitimate targets — police and soldiers.

The County Tyrone killings have inevitably thrown doubt on the ability of IRA leaders to deliver on their promise of a more "refined" military strategy.

Fifteen IRA gunmen have been killed in the past year, 17 top guerrillas arrested and several arms caches unearthed on either side of the border. Bungled bombings led to one border "active service unit" being disbanded.



SALMANIC VERSES — A Thai Muslim reads leaflets under posters condemning "The Satanic Verses" and its author Salman Rushdie during a protest rally at the Islamic Centre of Thailand in Bangkok. Many Muslims see the book as defaming Islam and Iranian revolutionary patriarch has passed a "death sentence" against Rushdie, who is now hiding in Britain.

Ethiopia epidemic outbreak kills 696

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — A meningitis epidemic has killed 696 people in Ethiopia's three central and southern regions, a health ministry official said Wednesday.

Tadelle Tedla, head of the ministry's epidemiology department, said 9,005 cases, 203 of them in the capital, Addis Ababa, had been diagnosed by the end of last month and that three million people had been vaccinated.

"We have the health infrastructure and experience in combating the disease, but it will take some time to contain it effectively," Tadelle said.

He said the government had earmarked one million birr (\$500,000) for a mass vaccination programme and had received 4.5 million vaccination doses from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"It is too early for any decline," Tadelle said. "With the

unfavourable high temperatures now prevailing in the central and southern regions, we do not expect any appreciable decline."

Tadelle acknowledged that his statistics did not include figures from "remote and inaccessible" areas, leaving open the possibility of even higher rates of death and incidence of the disease.

Meningitis is caused by a virus and leads to inflammation of the membrane surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. Without treatment, death can occur within 48 to 72 hours of the onset of the disease.

The Christian Relief and Development Agency provided half the vaccines, Tadelle said, and also was coordinating efforts by non-governmental organisations to combat the disease.

The outbreak was first detected in September, about two months earlier than usual, but was not made public until mid-January, when 135 deaths were reported.

West promises to take more refugees

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Western countries that have been resettling Indochinese refugees over the past decade have promised to accept more of those refugees, officials said Wednesday.

The officials, attending a preparatory session for the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, said no exact figures have been mentioned, but the numbers would probably be worked out before the June conference.

They declined to name the countries that promised to accept more refugees.

The bulk of the 1.5 million refugees resettled since the 1975 communist victories in Indochina have gone to the United States, Canada and Australia. Some also have gone to New Zealand, Britain and France.

The United States has taken about 800,000 so far, American delegates at the meeting said.

Jonathan Moore, U.S. ambassador at large for refugee affairs, told reporters that in the next fiscal year, the United States was prepared to take in 25,000 refugees from Southeast Asia. He declined to say if the figure would be revised upward.

Officials said discussions were continuing on whether departing Indochinese who did not qualify as refugees should be forcibly repatriated.

In his opening statement to the conference Tuesday, Vietnamese deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan spoke only of "encouraging voluntary repatriation."

New proposals are contained in a draft declaration being considered by 30 nations, including the United States, Japan and Vietnam.

The draft is to be presented to an international conference on refugees in Geneva in June where it may be amended.

Comfort of home a joke for millions of women

WASHINGTON (AP) — The comfort of home is a cruel illusion for millions of women not just in the United States but also in countries around the globe, according to an analysis of violence against women worldwide.

"If a person is murdered because of his or her politics, the world justifiably responds with outrage. But if a person is beaten or allowed to die because she is female, the world dismisses it as 'cultural tradition,'" says the report from the Worldwatch Institute in Washington.

Africa and the Indian subcontinent are identified as particular problem areas by the report, which was written by Lori Heise, a senior researcher with the institute. But no society or socioeconomic group has been spared the problem, she says.

Before the sun goes down Wednesday — International Women's Day — thousands of women worldwide will have been beaten in their homes by their partners and thousands more will have been raped, assaulted and sexually harassed, according to Heise's figures.

International Women's Day is a congressionally sanctioned

event dating back to 1910 that features speechmaking often focused on the strides women have made toward equality. But, as Heise sees it, just being a woman, particularly in a Third World country, can pose extraordinary risks.

In the United States, says Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, as many as 15 million women have been beaten, raped or suffered other forms of physical and sexual assault, and the number rises by one million a year.

As Hedy Nuriel, first vice chairman of the National Coalition of Domestic Violence, put it: "For many of us, it's safer to be out on the streets than to be in our own homes."

Heise says that, internationally, women tend to be targets because of their sex and the violence occurs "without social remorse or protest."

"Societies tacitly condone this violence through their silence or, worse yet, legitimise it through laws, customs, and court opinions that blatantly discriminate against women," she says.

The problem, she adds, is worthy of international attention

but is seldom raised at that level. It was not until 1980 that the international women's community recognised wife abuse as a priority.

Violence worldwide

In India, she writes, countless women have died as a byproduct of the system in which a bride's parents provide gifts to the groom as part of a marriage settlement.

Murder, suicide or severe abuse is sometimes the price young brides pay if promised money or goods do not materialise, she says.

For a woman in Bangladesh, said Ishrat Shamim of the University of Dhaka, the choice is often between a violent home and none at all.

In that country, "separated, deserted or divorced women are socially unacceptable," she observes, "and remarriage is almost impossible."

A side effect of the preference for male offspring in Bangladesh can be shown in comparative statistics on health care. Heise writes that in Matlab, Bangladesh, boys outnumber girls among hospitalised children by 50 to one.

Amazon unites against foreign meddling

QUITO (R) — Seven Amazon countries united behind Brazil Tuesday to denounce foreign pressure to save rain forests, saying they would not take orders from abroad on their ecological policies.

Officials from the eight nations of the Amazon Pact, including six foreign ministers, said any pressure on Brazil to protect the Amazon would be answered by all of them.

On the urging of Brazil, the conference's final statement included a salvo against what delegates consider foreign meddling in Amazon nations' ecological policies.

"The nations (of the Amazon Pact) reject any foreign interference over member countries' actions or policies in Amazonia," said the statement.

Brazil has come under fire around the world because of destruction of its share of the Amazon rain forest, the world's

largest, by settlers and loggers. "Pressure exerted on any one member forces all of us to act jointly and in sympathy (with the country under pressure)," Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, president of the conference, told a news conference.

The conference appeared to give Brazil a welcome morale boost in its efforts to deflect criticism over its record on protecting the environment.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said Amazon countries would respect the vast region's ecology but not accept "impositions from people who try to boss us around."

He and other ministers said foreign pressures could be viewed as affronts to their sovereignty.

Brazil's complaints about its critics have been partly due to their success in blocking foreign loan money, sources said.

Japanese share scandal mushrooms

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo prosecutors arrested two more people Wednesday, including a former vice-minister of labour, in connection with the share scandal which has rocked the Japanese government.

All parliamentary business was stalled due to opposition demands for more information on the scandal which has forced three cabinet ministers out of office and so far led to the arrest of 12 people on suspicion of giving or receiving bribes.

A prosecutor's office spokesman said former Vice-minister Takashi Kato had been arrested on suspicion of receiving bribes from Recruit company, the publishing and telecommunications group at the heart of the scandal.

Also arrested on suspicion of giving bribes was former senior Recruit official Masao Tatumai,

the prosecutor's spokesman said. Local press reports said Kato, who retired from government in 1987, received 3,000 shares in a then-unlisted Recruit subsidiary while at the ministry, and made 6.9 million yen (\$54,000) by selling them after they were listed.

Recruit distributed shares and contributions to more than 100 public figures, including top politicians and their aides.

Opposition parties, which for months have been calling for the government to resign over the affair, halted parliamentary business Wednesday.

The opposition has refused to discuss the budget because of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) rejection of their demand to have former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone testify in parliament over his alleged involvement in the scandal.

Social workers demonstrate in Bombay against the \$470 million compensation awarded by the Indian supreme court for victims of the Bhopal gas disaster.

Protesters storm Carbide office amid legal wrangle

NEW DELHI (AP) — Demonstrators ransacked the office of Union Carbide Corp. Wednesday as the supreme court heard arguments challenging the settlement for the victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

About 10 to 15 demonstrators stormed into the reception area of Union Carbide's office in central New Delhi, said company spokesman Subramaniam Kumaraswamy. They broke windows, smashed furniture and scribbled slogans on the walls, Kumaraswamy said.

There were about 10 employees in the office at the time, but no one was injured in the melee, which lasted about 20 minutes he said.

He said the company had asked police for protection against possible future attacks.

Another 140 demonstrators formed a human chain around the building, shouting "Killer Carbide quit India" and "We will not allow UCC to get away with murder."

They demanded the scrapping of the \$470-million settlement as compensation for the victims of the Bhopal disaster. More than 3,400 people died and 20,000 others were injured.

Police and paramilitary troops checked those entering the supreme court and the main gates were locked as hundreds of victims brought to New Delhi from the central Indian city of Bhopal demonstrated outside.

They sat cross-legged in the court parking lot. Many women, some dressed in colourful saris and others wearing black capes, cradled infants in their arms. Some wore yellow paper badges proclaiming, "I am a gas victim."

The supreme court Feb. 14 ordered Union Carbide to pay \$470 million as the "full and final" settlement of all claims stemming from the gas leak.

Union Carbide deposited the entire amount with the court Feb. 24. But an attorney for the U.S.-based multinational said Wednesday the "settlement was held in abeyance" while the judges heard arguments to admit petitions challenging the order.

Chief Justice Raghunandan S. Pathak last week appointed five justices to decide the merits of a petition filed by Charanlal Sahu challenging the government's right to sue Union Carbide on behalf of all the gas leak victims.

Sahu, 51, and a supreme court lawyer, was in Bhopal at the time of the accident and says he still suffers problems with his lungs and eyes.

Chart your way through stock markets

By Dan Rosenblum
Reuter

TOKYO — Double bottoms, necklines, golden triangles, whipsaws and wedges have a lot in common — if you're an analyst trying to predict what happens next in the markets.

The colourful terms describe the shapes of peaks and troughs on charts used by some stock and currency dealers trying to figure out which way the markets will move.

To the uninitiated, the notion that charts can divine the future might seem absurd. But chartists see them as a reliable and sometimes highly profitable way to forecast trends.

"To me, charting is an art," said Maurice Lam, general manager at Security Pacific National Bank's Tokyo branch.

"Anybody can be a chartist in five minutes. All you need is a ruler, a pencil and a square piece of paper," said Lam.

The trick, he added, is to accurately interpret the chart patterns and figure out which way the line will go next. And that can take years of practice.

The "double bottom" is one of the patterns chartists look for most often — the price falls and rebounds, then falls to the same level and rebounds again. Chartists then conclude that the price has struck bottom and is likely to rise.

Then again, maybe there will be a "triple bottom," and where one chartist sees a "double bottom," another may see a "head and shoulders," an extremely bullish sign.

"I tried my best to get one of my clients to see an inverted head and shoulders in the price pattern of a stock, but they just couldn't see it," said one Tokyo stock analyst.

Admittedly, the second shoulder was not very clear, the head

was kind of ragged," he added.

Chartists, less numerous in Tokyo than in other major trading centres like New York and London, are sometimes the butt of jokes from sceptics.

"I talk only to people who understand, (and) I don't tell my friends who aren't in the banking business that I'm using the stuff," said Masato Nakamura, a currency analyst at the Sumitomo Bank.

Most non-banking types and some traders who dip in and out of the currency market for quick profits would rather know the political and economic reasons why the dollar is likely to fall or rise.

But some orthodox chartists maintain that all you need to calculate which way a market will go is a look at the charts without any reference to the news of the day.

"Head and shoulders, double bottoms, wedges — people not versed in the market look at you like you're crazy and reading tea leaves when you mention these things," said a share analyst.

And no wonder. Some technical theories long accepted in certain financial circles can stretch the limits of plausibility.

Take the Elliott Wave Principle, for example.

Developed to forecast stock prices in the 1930s, this theory holds that prices unfold in regular cycles of eight "waves" — five waves in the direction of the main trend and three corrective waves the other way.

These waves can span minutes, hours, weeks, months, years or even decades.

Moreover, the theory says that prices in financial markets are governed by the same mathematical principles inherent in the growth patterns of snail shells, galaxies and bacteria.



British rats live it up

LONDON (AP) — Winter, and the living is easy in the kingdom of Rattus Norvegicus, the common brown rat that has become uncommonly numerous around Britain. Complaints about rats are up as much as 70 per cent in parts of London, which had just a touch of slush during a very mild winter. Similar increases have been reported in Bristol, Manchester and other large cities. "I've never, never known such a year," said Stuart Slater, chief environmental services officer of Babergh district council northeast of London. Slater has been kept busy investigating complaints stemming from the increased rat population. "I haven't had a Saturday off since the end of November," he said. Norman Foster, health officer for the mid-Suffolk Council, said he received 1,323 rat complaints last winter. This year, he had matched that total by late December — before winter officially started.

Britain pays up for clerical blunder

LONDON (R) — Britain paid more towards protecting the environment Tuesday thanks to a clerical blunder by a government department. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said at a conference on the ozone layer that Britain would double its annual contribution of £1.5 million (\$2.6 million) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley, sitting beside her at a press conference, leaned over and said: "Actually, prime minister, it's one and a quarter million (\$2.15 million)." "Well then, you'd better make it one and a half million immediately," Thatcher replied. "That will teach these people to give me the wrong briefing, won't it?" Amid laughter, Ridley took a £10 note out of his wallet and offered it behind Thatcher's back to UNEP executive director Mostafa Tolba.

Cow battle kills two

DHAKA (R) — A pair of wild cows wandered from India, where they were sacred, to Bangladesh, where they were not, and killed two villagers before soldiers slaughtered the animals in an hour-long battle. Six soldiers were injured in the melee, which began after the cows walked into Bangladesh through Khairani border point Tuesday and pierced two villagers to death with their giant horns. Alerted by screaming villagers, soldiers tried to scare the beasts off with dozens of rifle shots. The enraged cows chased the soldiers through bushes and rice fields, sending six to hospital, police said.

Passport withheld for faulty memory

NEW YORK (AP) — An 80-year-old woman who came to the United States in 1910 will finally travel to Israel seven months after her passport application was held up because she couldn't remember her father's name. Yetta Eisendorfer, of Brooklyn, went to her congressman's office in August to file for the document that would allow her to visit her relatives in Israel, said Charles Schumer, her congressman. But Eisendorfer, who has never been abroad, could not prove she was a U.S. citizen — her father's first name and where he was naturalised slipped her memory. The information was crucial, since she was granted citizenship through her father's naturalisation. "Ms. Eisendorfer's case required some dogged detective work," said Schumer.

Beethoven's furniture sold

PARIS (AP) — A living room set that graced the salon of Ludwig von Beethoven fetched 50,000 francs (\$8,333) as a leading Viennese auction house joined a French auctioneer Tuesday in selling 19th and 20th century Austrian treasures. The furniture was owned by Beethoven until his death in 1827 and was part of his estate. French auctioneer Jacques Tajan said the five-piece ensemble was purchased by a U.S. citizen whom he declined to identify. Executed by the famed German Biedermeier school, the set consisted of a love seat with a curved back and arms in solid walnut, three fan-backed chairs covered in green felt and a small laminated table.

Hepburn wants to act again

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Audrey Hepburn who has rejected hundreds of scripts since making "They All Laughed" eight years ago, is looking for a new film role. "It would be fun to do another part before I roll over," Hepburn, 59, says in an American Magazine.

Handwritten signature: *John in 1989*